THE HINDOO PATRIOT

To which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 8TH MARCH

THE INDIAN OBSERVER has a lulgubrious leader on his not being able of late to procure a good cook and on the toughness and unpalatableness of the meats he has to do penance upon. We feel for our contemporary. Are cooks gifted with the instinct of rats that they make themselves scarce in certain quarters?

THE, SAID OBSERVER has solved the problem of high education in India. "It is a pity," he says, "that nothing is done to educate the Natives in an art that is far from contemptible. John Bull will give prizes and premiums for classics, mathematics, and the rest for our respectable collegiate *curriculum* for the Aryan brother, but it would, perhaps, be quite as much to his advantage, and a great deal more to ours, if he were taught to cook like an artist, and encouraged to go abroad to seek his fortune in great kitchens." Not a bad idea this. Let us have professors of cookery instead of mathematics in all our colleges, so that cooks may be cheap in the market. Unfortunately however for our contemporary cheap cooks are not synonymous with cooks that will serve without pay.

IT IS NOTEWORTHY that His Majesty the King of Siam has invited the Royal Astronomical Society of England to send some English astronomers to secure the observation of the coming solar eclipse.

M. NIVIERE, says the *Agricultural Gazette of India*, has obtained surprising results by the use of chopped hay and straw, moistened with cold water, in which was a little powdered oil cake, and allowing the mass to ferment for two days, well compressed in a reservoir. Increasing the nutritiveness of this food by a little hay and oil cake, the cattle produced about one pound of meat per day, and the same quantity of subsistence sufficed to support oxen working ten hours daily. The same kind of fodder is used for cattle in Calcutta, but it does not contribute much to their developement. There is however difference in the mode of preparation. The straw is not soaked in water for two days.

THE SAME PAPER gives the following extract from the report of Mr. C. H. Wood, Government Quinologist, on the cultivation and curing of tobacco:

"The impressions I have formed on this subject are as follows:—

The object in view is to produce a tobacco which shall be adopted to the tastes of European smokers, and therefore able to compete with the produce of Havannah and Manilla. Much of the tobacco grown in Bengal is of excellent quality, but lacking in certain characters which the ciger manufacturer requires. The characters to be looked for appear to be chiefly the following:—

(*a*)—The leaves should *burn well*, yeilding a *firm white ash*

(*b*)—They should be free from large veins; the texture of the leaf should be tolerably thin and uniform, not coarse,

(*c*)—They should be free from the minute punctures caused by fly,

(*d*)—They should possess a golden or nut-brown colour, uniform in tint throughout the leaf.

(*e*)—The leaf should possess a certain amount of elasticity.

(*f*)—Leaves should be free from any trace of musty odour and the formation of mould carefully guarded against.

(*g*)—They should be perfect (not broken) and as free as possible from fold or twist.

(*h*)—They should be carefully sorted according to size and quality.

(*a*), (*b*). and (*c*), depend upon cultivation.

The proper burning of tobacco and the quality of its ash, are due to the presence of a certain amount of potassium nitrate in the leaf. The venation and texture of the leaves will probably be largely affected by the rapidity and vigour of the growth. It would be desirable to have the soil from different tobacco fields and the plants grown upon it carefully analysed; but above all the influence of manures should be fully studied. I understand that the Government have established an experimental farm in Tirhoot, under the management of a practical European planter. Experiments should be instituted there with manures of known composition, and the produce analysed and compared. Valuable information could hardly fail to result.

Characters (*d*), (*e*), (*f*), and (*g*) seem to be mainly dependent on the careful picking and curing of the leaf."

Tobacco promises to be a highly remunerative staple, and we would invite the attention of our countrymen to its proper cultivation.

WE TAKE the following from the *Agricultural Gazette* on tobacco experiments in Bengal:

"CASUAL experiments have been made for some years past in Bengal for improving its tobacco growth by the substitution of exotic for indigenous seed. A small quantity of Havanah and Virginian seed, for experimental cultivation, was received by the Bengal Government from the Commissioner of Cotton and Commerce in June 1871, and distributed widely over the province. The quantity was very small, but numerous experiments were made with the seed, and with encouraging results in one or two districts. The districts in which the experiments were more or less successfull, were the 24-Pergunnahs, Jessore, Southal Pergunnahs and Manbhoom. At Baraset, where the, experiment was conducted with Havanah seed, the produce was three times as large as from Hinglee seed, the best native description known in the district; while the cost of cultivation was the same. The yield, moreover, was nine maunds per beegha instead of three. At Ranaghat, a few plants of the acclimatized Virginian tabacco were successfully raised; the leaves were broader than those of indigenous tobacco, and the produce was reported to possess great stimulant power. Samples of acclimatized Virginia leaf, grown in the district of Jessore, were submitted to the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India in 1873, for report. The gentlemen to whom the samples were referred, pronounced the leaf to be excellent, and the curing alone defective. The leaves had, in fact, been dried, not cured. The Southal Pergunnahs would seem to be the only district in the Bhagulpore division where the experiments met with success. Mr. Blumhardt says:—"The plants which I have in my garden, have grown remarkably strong and healthy, and the leaves are very large." In Chota Naghore, the experiments at Manbhoom were very successful. The leaf was declared to be of excellent quality, and far superior to the indigenous produce. The plants grew to be three feet in height and upwards, with large and thickly-set leaves, and the yield was not less than double that of the indigenous plants. The tobacco was found stronger, moreover, and more pungent than the common kind. The cultivation, of the Virginia species is spreading, it is asserted, in some parts of the district, and will, it is believed, in course of time supersede the common country tobacco."

THE Commissioner of Burdwan reports on the experimental cultivation of the sunflower in the jail garden at Burdwan. According to the Superintendent of the jail, two seers of seed were sown, and the produce was 12 seers. The seeds were separated from the husk and then put in the *ghani*, no water being mixed with them. Five seers produced about three chittacks of oil, reported to be as clean and pure as mustard-oil. The fibre is of very good quality.

THE production of milk in France may be judged from the fact that Paris alone consumes about 125,000,000 litres annually, or 342,500 daily, equal to about 85,625 gallons. The milk is brought into the city every morning in tin cans holding 25 litres; 13,700 of these have, therefore, to be brought in, by special cars, holding 160 in two rows; 85 of these cars arrive at the railway termini daily, to supply milk for the Parisians. A good many come from a distance of 30 leagues from the capital.

THE ATTEMPT to acclimatize Carolina rice in the Central Provinces last year seems to have totally failed. The scanty rain-fall, its late commencement and early cessation, affected the rice sowings in common with the indigenous sorts; and in every district the trial was a failure.

THE GOVERNMENT of the Central Provinces has made an interesting report on the Municipalities of those provinces. We are told that "generally, though not universally, each Committee is composed partly of official and partly of elected members. It may almost be said that this mixed constitution is universal: it is indeed one of the objects which has always strictly been kept in view that there should be a mingling of officials and of non-officials." The proportion of officials to elected members varies according to the size and circumstances of the town. It was at one time desired that each distinctive class of society and that each handicraft should have its representative at the municipal boards. Sir George Campbell, when Chief Commissioner of these Provinces, was especially desirous that this should be done, and it was accordingly attempted, but only with partial success. The present Chief Commissioner questions whether such a system worked in its entirety would command success. The number of Municipalities last year was 56, and in 42 Octroi is either the sole or the principal source of income. The majority of the Municipal towns have incomes of less than Rs. 5,000, fully two-thirds of which go towards the payment of permanent establishments, such as the Collecting Agency, Police, Conservancy, &c.

TUESDAY, 9TH MARCH.

THE GOVERNMENT Pleader of Madras has expressed his opinion that tender of arrears of revenue on a Sunday, such day being the day previous to the day of sale, is not illegal, and at all events the defaulter can claim the protection and privilege of such tender by obtaining the release of his lands.

THE POONA OBSERVER states that an Anglo-Indian Aid Association has been formed at Bangalore for teaching poor Eurasian lads carpentry, blacksmith's work and other manual trades. This is a move in the right direction.

THE BOKHARA CORRESPONDENT of *Indian Public Opinion* learns that the Tekkas, Yamouths, Turkomans, &c., &c., mustered together 5,000 strong and made a sudden attack on the Russian Cantonments of Khiva, killing many and plundering some of their property.

THE SAME CORRESPONDENT learns that the Raeesses and others of Urgunj and Khiva have instructed the Turkomans to make friendly overtures through the Amir of Cabul to the British Government that they may in time expel the Russians from their country.

THE RUSSIANS, says the same writer, intend to imprison the Valee of Orgunj, as they believe he instigated the Turkomans and others to make these attacks on them..

A MERCHANT was recently caught selling European merchandise in Russian territory, and as the prohibition of the same was notified by the Russians, they have confiscated the articles. Cannot European merchandize be sold in Russian territory without a firman? Why then find fault with semi-civilized countries like China for jealousy of English trade?

A DESIGN is on foot to establish an industrial missionary settlement on the borders of Lake Nyassa, to be called Livingstonia, after the great African traveller. The prospects of the undertaking are believed to be promising, and of the £10,000 required to carry it on, £5,000 has already been subscribed in Scotland.

WE TAKE the following from the *Indian Statesman*:

"A very disgraceful political scandal has been developed at Washington. In 1872, Pacific Mail Steamship Company of New York—the Company which has recently sustained a severe loss by the burning of their steamship *Java*—obtained from Congress a subsidy of 5,000,000 dols, a year for ten years. It now turns out that the Company gave to a Mr. R. B. Irwin the sum of 750,000 dols. to be used in Washington to secure the passage of the Bill granting this subsidy. This money was paid to Mr. Irwin, in cheques signed by the President of the Company, Mr. Stockwell, for 100,000 dols., and five others for 100,000 dols. each. An investigation into the matter is now being conducted before the House Committee of Ways and Means, and Mr. Irwin has been examined as a witness. He frankly confessed that he received the money, and declared that he had expended it for the purpose for which it was given; but when he was asked to whom he had paid it he flatly refused to answer. Every one believes that he paid it to members of Congress; it is even insinuated that some of it went to still higher quarters, but Mr. Irwin remains firm in his refusal to throw any light upon the matter. He will probably be committed to prison for contempt, but his detention can last no longer than the present session of Congress, and for that he will probably care but little."

So education and political morality do not go hand in hand.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH MARCH.

LADY BURDETT COUTTS appeals in the *Times* on behalf of the humming birds, which, she says, are in a fair way to become extinct. Her ladyship asks whether those who regulate the constantly varying fashions could not encourage the delicate designs of pattern in the riband trade, now much wanting support, or the beautiful art work in artificial flowers which gives bread to many a toiling hand, rather than a mode of ornamentation which must suggest a blood stain on the delicate hat or cap, and has silenced the joy-song in the breast of a fluttering, harmless creature.

THE PARIS FIGARO says that the magnificent red velvet mantle of the Empress of Russia is lined with 228 sable skins, each worth £12, the whole being valued at nearly £4,000. The Emperor has a cloak of blue foxskin worth £4800, and some time since made a present to the Marchioness of Caux of a mantle worth 50,000f. (£2,000.)

THE LATE MR. MILNER, of "safe" fame, has left a fortune of £160,000. He directs that one-tenth of this shall be distributed in charities.

THE PUBLISHER of the *Indian Statesmen* has been committed by Mr. Marsden, the Police Magistrate, to take his trial at the next sessions of the High Court.

THE COLOGNE GAZETTE states, that the Shah's visit to Europe has occasioned many alterations in the external appearance of the upper and middle classes

in Persia. Shoes are worn, the baggy trousers are reduced, the chin is shaven—an innovation obnoxious to orthodox Mahomedans—the cap is not so high, and the whole dress is a mixture of Armenian and European fashions.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE in commenting on the reports and returns from Cachar for 1873, observes that desertions appear to be increasing in number. The Chief Commissioner of Assam has recorded the following Resolution on the subject :

"The increase in Cachar, in 1873, appears to have been quite abnormal, Inspectors, in preparing their reports for 1874, should attempt to give some explanation of desertions. It is quite conceivable that the prosperity of the tea-industry and the increased demand for labour may be the cause of an increase in desertions. But the deserters must be disposed of in some way.

(1)—Do they settle in the province ; or
(2)—Do they return to their homes ; or
(3)—Do they simply desert for higher pay or more comfortable quarters in other gardens ?

3. Another point to which attention should be given is what becomes of time-expired labours ? Do they often take land and settle in the province ?

We hope the Chief Commissioner will take measures to promote the settlement of time-expired laborers with lands in Assam.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE makes the following remarks in his Report on the Famine of 1874 on the forecaste of it by the British Indian Association :

The British Indian Association of Calcutta, a society which is mainly composed of the zemindars and landholders of Bengal, early in December represented to the Government their expectation that the famine of 1874 would be more severe and general than the famine of 1866; that special organisation would be required to bring relief to respectable villagers who would not beg and could not work; and that, if the worst came, the task of feeding sixty millions of people might, as an extreme possibility, devolve on the Government. Looking to the position of the Association and their sources or information, the Government deemed their opinion entitled to weight, and invited a fuller statement of the grounds for that opinion. The Association replied on the 24th December by submitting a valuable essay, stating the facts as they believed them to be, offering a full estimate of the position apparently warranted by those facts, and comparing in detail the prospects of the country in December 1865, with the prospects in December 1873. The Association's statements of facts coincided closely with the official reports already before the Government and the public.

The *Pioneer* is very angry with Sir Richard Temple for noticing the statements of the Association in the above terms. The writer ought to remember that Sir George Campbell was the first to say that the estimate of the Association coincided with that of the Government.

MR. GRANT DUFF left for England on Monday last.

THURSDAY, 11TH MARCH.

THE HEALTH-RETURN of Calcutta for the week ending on the 27th February shews the total number of deaths at 274 against 248 in the previous week. There were no less than 47 deaths from small-pox.

WE HAVE received the prospectus of a new magazine to be called the *National Magazine*. The more the merrier.

IT APPEARS that Mr. Prinsep, the Judge of Hooghly, does not come to the High Court, but goes to Mysore as Judicial Commissioner. His departure from Hoogly will be a great loss to that district. Mr. Lawford, Judge of Jessore, takes Mr. Justice Kemp's place. He was once Registrar of the High Court.

A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION will go from Calcutta to the Nicobars to take observation of the total eclipse of the sun. We hope Father Lafont will join it.

WE HAVE much pleasure in reproducing the following extracts from the testimonials granted by His Excellency the Viceroy to the Professors of the Bengal Music School :

GOVT. HOUSE,
Calcutta, 7th March 1875.

The entertainment which the Rajah Joteendro Mohun Tagore gave a month ago afforded Lord Northbrook an opportunity of hearing to advantage a selection of Hindu instrumental Music under your direction, and His Excellency was greatly pleased with the performance.

(Sd.) W. EARLE, *Colonel*,
Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

TO PROFESSOR KHETTER MOHUN GOSSAMI.

GOVT. HOUSE
Calcutta, 7th March 1875.

His Excellency desires me to say that your performance upon that difficult and peculiar instrument, the Naatarunga, interested him very much.

(Sd,) W. EARLE, *Colonel*.
Military Secretary to the Viceroy.

TO BABU KALLI PRASSANNA BANERJI.

WE HAVE before us a few specimen pages of a new Dictionary of the English language in English and Bengali. The scheme is very elaborate, and will cost great labor. It has been undertaken by Babu Hurray Kristo Auddy, the well known proprietor of the Oriental Seminary.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Behar Herald* states that the Government has granted Rs. 700 towards the maintenance of the new Boarding Institution at Patna till such time as it may take to be self-supporting. Government has also made a handsome donation of Rs. 25,000 for the erection of a suitable building.

THE SAME PAPER states that a company has been formed, consisting of some of the planters and native bankers in Tirhut with the view of farming the Government Model Farm at Pusa.

ACCORDING to the above journal the Mahomedan Marriage and Divorce Bill does not seem to be popular with the Mahomedans of Behar. Our contemporary says ; "Already there is a cry of religious interference, and this though the marriage is entirely a civil contract amongst the Mahomedans and the bill is merely permissive in its character." Then it is stated that the Bill is not needed in Behar, where the marriage tie is not loose among the Mahomedans, and that it will lead to abuse and oppression.

THE INDIAN COOLIES in Trinidad are not only prosperous but imbibing manly habits. The *Friend of India* publishes the following interesting letter :

"A coolie named Ajoon, who keeps the shop at the entrance to Santa Cruz, ran two horses at the races, and carried off the Governors's cup. Ladies Purse, and I know not what else. He had been Sirdar on several estates previously. He states publicly that he will import next year the best English racers. In the meantime he goes down to Demerara and elsewhere, to carry off the prizes."

An example for the tea-planters of Assam !

THE CALCUTTA GAZETTE contains a Resolution of the Bengal Government on the subject of the Hastings' Bridge. The projects for permanent bridge having now been received, it is expected that, including arrangements with the contractors, the bridge may be completed within a year, and the Lieutenant-Governor has determined on not constructing a temporary bridge.

THAT OUR MOFUSSIL HAKIMS do not like the reign of law is exemplified in the following case, which is reported in *Native Opinion*. Mr. Ashburner the Revenue Commissioners, N. D. Bombay, thus comments on the lawyers of Tanna :

"Tanna is a Vakil-ridden District and the best Police would not be a match for the acuteness and artifice of these practitioners. The Police require to be supported by a powerful Bench that can break through the fence of the keen weapons of technicality with the stout cudgels of common sense. A Vakil does nothing but his duty, when by adroit misrepresentation and plausible reasoning he can make the worst appear the better cause ; and when the Judge is prepossessed against the Police, it gives the Vakils an advantage of which he is not slow to avail himself. In such cases a Judge is more an advocate than a Judge, and convicts in spite of himself."

Yes, the Police are immaculate, and the vakeels a nuisance ! No wonder that the liberty of the subject is not safe in the hands of such overzealous officers.

FRIDAY, 12TH MARCH.

WE HAVE received a notice to the effect that the conductors of the *Oriental Figaro* have engaged "Caro," the well-known artist, whose pencil has made the *Indian Charivari* famous, to illustrate the principal characters in the Gaekwar's trial.

A GRADUATE of the Calcutta University has sent us a paper on the late Sir Arthur Helps, for which we regret we have not space. We however give a few extracts :

"There is sufficient evidence in the writings of Arthur Helps to show that he carefully studied, and in many respects imitated Lord Bacon. He followed that principle of Baconian philosophy that the ordinary things of this earth are not unfit for philosophical consideration. And accordingly he did not hesitate to discuss and dilate on subjects often considered by others to be too homely to deserve a place in any respectable work. Like his great original he was remarkable for his strong common sense and keen insight into the ways of the world.

"How many a time has Arthur Helps come by our side to give us counsel in the most unpretending, simple, nay playful way, on subjects of the utmost importance. He understood the vanity and imperfections of human nature, and none knew better than he how to make allowance for vanity and imperfection. He taught without castigation and never smiled or frowned on human shortcomings. His writings have consoled the sorrowful and encouraged the desponding ; and they will continue ever more to do their good work, for there will be no lack on earth of people in need of consolation and encouragement."

THE MYSORE ANGLO-INDIAN AID ASSOCIATION have given a new name to the Eurasians by calling them "Anglo-Indians." In a letter to Mr. Fawcett they thus trace the history of the Eurasians :

"The Portuguese were the first European nation that settled in India. Their connection with this country commenced about the year A. D. 1.500. They established several factories on the Western Coast with Goa, which still belongs to them, as their Head Quarters. Their settlements extended further North than the Island of Bombay and they also had a place on the Western Coast at Saint Thome, now a suburb of Madras. These portuguese mixed rather freely with the natives of the country and left a large number of descendants of mixed blood, who as the Portuguese power declined began to enter the British local army as non-commissioned officers, Bandsmen, Farriers &c. and who by this and other means got scattered all over the country taking their families with them. Their females formed connections by marriage and otherwise with European British Officers and soldiers, and a numerous half Anglo-Europeanized class was the result.

The French and Dutch and also settlements in India and their descendants of pure and mixed blood amalgamated with this class ; which was also largely added to by the offspring of British officers (Civil and Military) and soldiers and native women.

These form the original ingredients of the class, which was termed East Indians or Eurasians ; and during the last century of British rule, they have increased by intermarriages with Europeans or among themselves."

They say that the Eurasians should be employed in the army in lieu of Europeans. What next and next ?

PROFESSOR NEWMAN is a vegetarian, and in an article on vegetarianism in *Fraser* thus gives his own experience :

"I had previously by medical order eaten flesh meat regularly twice a day, and rather largely. Dinner pills were ordered to assist digestion of so much meat. These I abandoned with flesh food, and have never resumed them. My general health is better than I remember it, nor has my enjoyment of food at all lessened. In my seventieth year, I need neither doctors nor medicine. By general testimony the colour of my skin and fulness of my cheeks have much improved under this diet, which I would now on no account give up, though I adopted it with much more of fear than of hope."

THE TOTAL military expenses of France, during the late war with Prussia, including the indemnity, amounted, according to an article in the *Revenue des Deux Mondes*, to £372,000,000.

THE YOUNG (second) wife of Vicomte Ferdinand de Lesseps, of Suez Canal celebrity, has just presented her husband, who is in his seventieth year, with twins, a boy and a girl. Madame de Lesseps, *nee* Autard de Bragard, is a young Creole of English extraction ; and she married M. de Lesseps a few days after the inauguration of his grand engineering triumph.

HERE IS instance how the Abkari policy of Government encourages the spread of drunkenness. In the Native State of Mysore, of which the British Government is trustee, the Abkari revenue is farmed out, and the present contract has been raised from Rs. 180,000, to Rs. 280,000. The contractor recoups himself and makes a fortune by multiplying shops all over the country, and by the facilities and solicitations to drink afforded to the people. Why not introduce the distillery system in Mysore ?

SATURDAY, 13TH MARCH.

THERE IS a strong feeling against the levy of the present scale of tolls upon the Hooghly Bridge. It is proposed to call a public meeting through the Sheriff. The Government ought to anticipate such a demonstration.

THERE IS a spirit of journalism coming into fashion in Calcutta, which threatens to become a social pest. The names of gentlemen who seek no notoriety are dragged into publicity, and they are according to the sympathies or antipathies of the writers posted to this place, raised to that rank, honored with this distinction, and what not. The devil, goes the saying, finds business for those who have no business of their own. Have this miserable tribe of so-called public commentators nothing to write about questions of real public importance instead of wasting their energies upon petty personal speculations, inuendoes, and cavillings? Not content with this some of them would if they could establish a sort of inquisition, and hang every journalist, who would not fall in to their views. The other day one of them enquired why we did not notice the Police circular about the imitation of Government House liveries. We may satisfy this impertinent and vulgar curiosity by stating our reason. We had received a copy of the circular long before it was published in any paper, but we thought that it was a matter rather to be laughed at than to be made a serious grievance of. In fact we immediately wrote to the gentleman who forwarded the circular to us—in the name of Allah—figs ! Surely the Deputy Commissioner of Police should not have taken the name of the Viceroy in such a small matter as that. It was certainly improper on the part of private individuals to have imitated the livery recognized as that of the servants of the Queen's Viceroy—in England no one we are informed commits such a flagrant breach of social etiquette as to imitate the Royal livery, and in India we have not seen any Englishman do the like—and our fashionable countrymen would have shewn both good taste and good breeding if they had not allowed themselves to be brought in this way under our Lord Chamberlain's lash. Some of them have taken to a fancy of painting the Royal Coat of Arms upon their carriages, and they had better take a warning in time. At the same time we are of opinion that the Viceroy's wish could have been conveyed in a decent and inoffensive manner without using the questionable medium of the Police and dragging his Excellency's name through the mire. Native gentlemen would have been too glad to conform to the wishes of His Excellency. Nevertheless the matter was not such as to be made a grievance of and we thought that the less was spoken about it the better. This is the "mystery" of our silence.

WE HAVE received the proceedings of a Society established at Saugor in the Central Provinces called the Hitakari Sabha. It has three branches, political

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educational, and scientific. Some of the principal native gentlemen of the town have joined it.

THERE WAS a *fracas* at the Howrah Railway Station between a relative of Sir Jung Bahadur, and a military gentleman. The following particulars are given in the *Indian Mirror*:

"It appears that a servant of Sir Jung's relative came into rather too close proximity to the Lieutenant, and while he was playing with a garland of flowers that he had on his neck, it suddenly touched the face of the gallant son of Mars, who thereupon struck him. Having received the blow, the servant represented the matter to his master, but the latter told him to take no notice of it, as they were in a foreign territory. A few minutes after while Sir Jung's relative was walking about on the platform, he received a shove from the same military gentleman, and hence ensued the *fracas*.

Our Government we hope will make an equiry into the matter, and take a serious notice of the conduct of the military gentleman, if he was the aggressor.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy and suite will leave Calcutta for Delhi on Monday next at 8-30 P. M.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, 5th March.—The Commons by 282 votes against 181 have rejected Mr, Goschen's motion on the Regimental exchanges. Mr. Disraeli explained the impossibility of the creation of vested interests because of their being no money payments recognized. After the rejection of the motion to the report of the progress, Mr. Disraeli consented to adjourn till Monday. Dr. Kenealy raised the question of privilege, with reference to an imputation of subornation and perjury in the Tichborne case.

6th March. The Government Bill of the Prussian Parliament withdraws State endowments from the Catholic Clergy, and these endowments are to be restored wherever the Supremacy of the State is acknowledged. The exportation of horses from Germany has been prohibited.

9th March.—Turkey has accepted the explanations of Spain that the notification of King Alfonso's accession was inadvertently made Roumania. In the House of Commons last night Mr. Gathorne Hardy, in moving the army estimates, denied the asserted deterioration in our recruits or army. He generally said that it was his intention to give Mr. Cardwell's reorganization scheme a fair trial.

9th March—In the House of Commons last night, replying to a question from Mr. Cross concerning the probability of the abolition or reduction of the protective duties on cotton goods and yarns imported into India, Lord George Hamilton stated that the report of the Committee appointed last year to consider the operation of the Act of 1871 was still awaited.

10th March.—M. Buffet has succeeded in constructing a Ministry as follows:—Minister of the Interior, M. Buffet, of Justice, M. Dufaure, of Finance and Loan, M. Say, of Instruction, M. Vallon, and of the Commerce, M. Meaux. The remainder of the Ministers retain their former offices

Berlin, 10th March.—The Emperor William is seriously indisposed.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications: 1. Report on the Administration of the Registration Department in Bengal for 1873-74. 2. Tagore Law Lectures for 1874. 3. The Evangelical Review Vol II. No 7 for January 1875. The Indian Registration Act of 1871 with notes, by Carr Stephen Esq., Barrister-at-law. 5. A dictionary of the English and Bengali language—Sampies torm.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a new paper from Madras called the *Indian Freethinker* to be issued every week. We wish it every success.

WE ARE requested by our contemporary of the *Indian Observer* to correct an error, which crept into a paragraph in his paper of this morning regarding Mr. Ellis. He called Mr. Ellis "hardest-*headed*," but the printer's devil made it "hardest-*hearted*."

WE ARE sorry to learn that parts of the districts of Hooghly and 24-Pergunnahs are suffering from scarcity of water. May we enquire why water is not let into the Saraswati as was contemplated under the Hooghly Drainage and Irrigation Act? This was done in 1873.

WE ARE requested to announce that Father Lafont will deliver at St. Xavier's College on Thursday next the 18th instant a lecture "on some of the the effects of static electricity"

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1875.

THE RENT QUESTION.

WE ARE sorry to observe that disputes have again broken out between the zemindars and ryots in some of the Eastern districts. So long back as December last the *Dacca Prokash* noticed a case of recusancy and riot amongst the tenants of Uootursapore in Sonargong. This property had belonged to Dr. Wise and was newly purchased by Babu Gobind Chunder Roy, Zemindar, Dhankarra. The ryots, it was stated, refused to pay rent at the same rate at which they had paid to Dr. Wise. The refractory tenants not content with the refusal of rent we are told committed all sorts of atrocities upon the Zemindar's people and such of the other ryots as were disposed in his favor to the extent of insulting their zenanna women. The Zemindar without adopting any retributive measures quietly bided his time. He consented to reduce the rent by one anna in the rupee with the approval of the District Magistrate, but this concession produced no effect. The writer added, "things have assumed an attitude which makes it probable that the ryots will be very glad to get out of the scrape into which they have brought themselves by paying rent at the original rate. They are overwhelmed with affray cases and they will have to bear the cost of maintaining one hundred especial constables quartered upon them." This refractory spirit we are sorry to learn has been since spreading. "It is now generally known," says the *Bengal Times*, "that the ryots of this and several other districts are in open mutiny against their Zemindars, and refuse payment of rent at any thing above five annas a *pakhee* per annum, the rate alleged to have been fixed by His Excellency the Viceroy during his late visit to Dacca. But few, we believe, know that the ryots of Hashara in Vikrampore have gone a step further. We hear, that, they formed a combination and signed an agreement, by which they bound themselves, never to be reconciled to their Zemindars, and to pay a fine of rupees one thousand to their leaders and counsellors in the event of their committing a breach of any of the terms of this agreement. We hear moreover, that this curious agreement is duly stamped and registered, and what is still more curious, that the Sub-Registrar of Sreenuggur in whose office the document has been registered, refused to grant an attested copy thereof to the Agents of the Zemindars against whom the combination has been entered into, on the ground *that they were not parties to the deed!* The Agents are next said to have applied to our District Magistrate who has caused the District Sub-Registrar to send for the Sreenuggur Sub-Registry Book and to ascertain if such a document has really been executed and registered, in the face of his proclamation that whoever circulates false reports with a view to foment the existing ill-feeling between ryots and zemindars will be severely punished." In his subsequent issue our contemporary says that the Hashara Combination deed is a fact. He continues: "Our District Magistrate obtained a copy for inspection and ordered the Zemindar's Agents to be supplied with another to enable them to bring as they stated, an action against the fomentors of this (to them) very injurious combination." He adds, "we question if the registration of such documents is politic in the present state of affairs between landlord and ryot, and whether our Magistrate will not adopt some step to check the evil before stringent measures become necessary." It is stated that the Hashara Zemindar has been compelled to engage special police for protection.

Now, where is this to end? Are we to have an agrarian rising? The present state of things in the Eastern districts, we are constrained to say, is a logical sequence of the action taken by Sir George Campbell in reference to Pubna riots of 1873. If the Government of the day had put down the refractory spirit in a proper and impartial spirit instead of fomenting it by inflammatory proclamations and ill-judged proceedings of the local executive, things would not have gone on in this way. Sir Richard Temple has now a difficult task before him, and we trust he will prove equal to it. A more important question we submit cannot claim the attention of Government than the present attitude of the ryots towards the zemindars in the Eastern districts. The question is simple enough—it is this, whether the zemindar is entitled to enhancement of rent demanded by him. Now increase of rent may be claimed on three grounds—*1stly* that the area occupied by the ryot, and here we allude to the occupancy ryot, is more than he pays for, *2ndly*, that the rate of rent paid is lower than the pergunna rate, and *3rdly*, that the value of produce has increased from causes independent of the ryot's labor or capital. With regard to the first point, it can be easily settled, if there is no dispute as to the measurement rod. This was, however, the bone of contention in Pubna. The ryots set up a longer pole than was the standard in the pergunna, and they lost the case, because the decisions of the civil courts were against them. But we have not heard that the ryots in Dacca and Mymensing dispute the measuring rod of those districts. As regards the second point the zemindar is necessarily placed at a disadvantage. If the ryots combine and refuse to pay a fair and equitable rate of rent, the landlord cannot prove the pergunna rate, and must therefore forego his claim. His only stay is the third clause. If he can shew that there has been a rise in the value of produce independent of the ryot's exertions, that is to say by reason of general causes, he is fairly entitled to an enhancement of rent. But as the law now stands he must sue every ryot and take a decree of the civil court in every case. The reader may well imagine the magnitude and moral consequences of such wholesale litigation. Both the zemindar and ryot must suffer. The usual prelude to this sort of litigation is the withholding of rents by ryots. The zemindar in that case must sue the ryot for arrears of rent, and if there are ten thousand ryots in an estate, and if they combine and refuse to pay, he must institute ten thousand suits. Now taking the minimum cost of a civil court suit at Rs. 15, he must in the first instance lay out a lac and a half to recover the arrears, and then he must pay in the revenue and provide for his own expenses. The reader may well imagine how many zemindars are there, who can long carry on this sort of chronic warfare with their tenants for the recovery of their just dues. The ryots will also suffer. They must pay the costs, but if they be evil-disposed, they would rather pay costs than rent, and the more substantial of them can well afford to fight in this way. They save increased rent, and harass the zemindar. The small tenants however mostly suffer, but they cannot afford to quarrel with the big ryots, who are their ring-leaders. This was the case in Pubna, where they were at first overborne by the more powerful of their league, but some of them have already realized their position, and in Shazadpore we are told have compromised with their landlord. Then there are the suits for enhancement of rent, and here the contention is more determined and harassing. Can the zemindar so situated afford to sue ten thousand ryots for enhancement of rent? His estate will have gone to the Collector's hammer for default of revenue by the time he might institute enhancement suits. What is he to do then? He must yield to the terms of the ryots, however unreasonable and capricious. In other words he must forego his rights as landlord. Is this the position to which he should be reduced under the *ægis* of a powerful and just Government like that of the English in India? Is this the effect of that vaunted equality of law under the British Government? And if the battle between the zemindars and ryots is to be fought out in the regular way in the law courts, the Government must multiply the courts a hundred-fold. What a prospect is this before the general tax-payer!

Let us analyze the cause of the dispute. The zemindars say that there has been great rise in the value of produce from extraneous general causes, to the benefit of which they are entitled in common with all classes of the Queen's subjects. Nobody denies this fact. Even Sir George Campbell with his anti-zemindari proclivities admits it, and the law as we have stated above gives the zemindar a right to claim the increase. But *cui bono*? We have shewn the difficulties in the way of enhancement of rent, and unless the Government comes forward and throws oil over troubled waters, things we fear will go on from bad to worse, and we cannot say where the present complications will end. We confess that if the recusancy of the ryots in Dacca and Mymensing has not yet taken that serious aspect which the similar attitude of Pubna ryots in 1873 did, it has been entirely owing to the spirit of moderation and fairness of the local officers, and above all to the judgment and firmness of the head of the Government. The local officers have advised both the zemindars and ryots to make up their differences, and to come to a fair understanding with each other. The dispute we believe is this. The ryots now pay from annas 12 to 14 per biga; the zemindar claims from annas eighteen to twenty; the Collector has in many cases offered to arbitrate, and we hear that the zemindars are willing to abide by his arbitration. But the ryots continue refractory. It is true that the local influence of the revenue officers may go a great way in promoting peace and harmony, but will he feel strong unless ade-

quately armed with the power of law? What the change of law should be we will take a future opportunity to discuss, but the necessity for a change is placed beyond a doubt by the course of events in Eastern Bengal for the past three years.

BUSTI IMPROVEMENT IN CALCUTTA.

IT is a singular coincidence that the question of the sanitary improvement of the dwellings of the poor simultaneously engages the attention of the public of India and England. In Calcutta it has assumed a gigantic proportion under the pressure of the Secretary of State for India. In England a Bill has been introduced in Parliament for facilitating the improvement of the dwellings of the working classes in large towns. Mr. Cross, the Home Secretary, made a valuable speech in introducing this Bill, the principal points of which we propose to notice with a view to indicate to the Calcutta Justices the course they might reasonably follow. It is observable that notwithstanding the highly civilized condition of England and the marked progress which municipal self-government has attained in that country the sanitary state of the back-slums of London and other large English towns is something horrible, and that the rate of mortality in those towns is consequently very great. In a report to the Commissioners of Sewers for London Dr. Letheby not many years ago wrote as follows:

"I have been at much pains during the last three months to ascertain the precise conditions of the dwellings, the habits, and the diseases of the poor. In this way 2,208 rooms have been most circumstantially inspected, and the general result is that nearly all of them are filthy or overcrowded or imperfectly drained, or badly ventilated, or out of repair. In 1,989 of these rooms, all in fact that are at present inhabited, there are 5,791 inmates, belonging to 1,576 families; and to say nothing of the too frequent occurrence of what may be regarded as a necessitous overcrowding, where the husband, the wife, and young family of four or five children are cramped into a miserably small and ill-conditioned room, there are numerous instances where adults of both sexes, belonging to different families, are lodged in the same room, regardless of all the common decencies of life, and where from three to five adults, men and women, besides a train or two of children, are accustomed to herd together like brute beasts or savages; and where every human instinct of propriety and decency is smothered. Like my predecessor, I have seen grown persons of both sexes sleeping in common with their parents, brothers and sisters, and cousins, and even the casual acquaintance of a day's tramp, occupying the same bed of filthy rags or straw; a woman suffering in travail, in the midst of males and females of different families that tenant the same room, where birth and death go hand in hand; where the child but newly born, the patient cast down with fever, and the corpse waiting for interment, have no separation from each other, or from the rest of the inmates. Of the many cases to which I have alluded, there are some which have commanded my attention by reason of their unusual depravity—cases in which from three to four adults of both sexes, with many children, were lodging in the same room, and often sleeping in the same bed. I have note of three or four localities, where forty-eight men, seventy-three women, and fifty-nine children are living in thirty-four rooms. In one room there are two men, three women, and five children, and in another one man, four women, and two children; and when, about a fortnight since, I visited the back room on the ground floor of No. 5, I found it occupied by one man, two women, and two children; and in it was the dead body of a poor girl who had died in childbirth a few days before. The body was stretched out on the bare floor, without shroud or coffin. There it lay in the midst of the living, and we may well ask how it can be otherwise than that the human heart should be dead to all the gentler feelings of our nature, when such sights as these are of common occurrence.

"So close and unwholesome is the atmosphere of some of these rooms, that I have endeavoured to ascertain, by chemical means, whether it does not contain some peculiar product of decomposition that gives to it its foul odour and its rare powers of engendering disease. I find it is not only deficient in the due proportion of oxygen, but it contains three times the usual amount of carbonic acid, besides a quantity of aqueous vapour charged with alkaline matter that stinks abominably. This is doubtless the product of putrefaction, and of the various fœtid and stagnant exhalations that pollute the air of the place. In many of my former reports, and in those of my predecessor, your attention has been drawn to this pestilential source of disease, and to the consequence of heaping human beings into such contracted localities; and I again revert to it because of its great importance, not merely that it perpetuates fever and the allied disorders, but because there stalks side by side with this pestilence a yet deadlier presence, blighting the moral existence of a rising population, rendering their hearts hopeless, their acts ruffianly and incestuous, and scattering, while society averts her eye, the retributive seeds of increase for crime, turbulence and pauperism."

Such is the condition of London bustis as painted by its medical officer. It is not necessary to quote other authorities, for they all describe it in the same colors. Her Majesty's Government lately received several petitions on the subject, one of which says:

"That the dwellings of the poorer classes in various parts of the metropolis are in such a condition, from age, defects of construction, and misuse, as to be deeply injurious to the physical and moral welfare of the inhabitants, and to the well-being of the community at large."

Mr. Cross at the outset stated that "it is not the duty of the Government to provide any class of citizens with any of the necessaries of life (hear, hear,) and among the necessaries of life we must include that which is one of the necessaries—good and habitable dwellings." But he observed that much could be done by the legislature in the way of sanitary reform. "The evil," he remarked, "we have to grapple with is not one of modern growth, but arises from the neglect of past and former years." And this in civilized and self-governed England! It ought to moderate the zeal of those, who are in the habit of crying out that the Natives of India have a vested interest in dirt and filth. Bad as the bustis of Calcutta are, they are not so bad as those of some of the large English towns as shewn by their mortuary returns. Mr. Cross said, "if you consider that the death-rate is about 22½ per 1,000 throughout the whole country—that in London it is 24 per 1,000, and that in Manchester it has been 30, in Liverpool during the last ten years it has been 38, and in Sunderland 37 per 1,000—there must be something wrong in these towns which makes the death-rate so different." Last year the death-rate of Calcutta was 25·82 per 1000. In England the authorities however work on a systematic plan. Before introducing the present Bill the Government made statistical enquiries about the sanitary condition of the blocks inhabited by the poor. Mr. Cross said, "in Liverpool, where the death-rate is 38 in 1,000, some parts of the town are just as healthy as London, and if you enquire into local areas you will find that in certain courts, having a population of from 2,000 to 2,100, there have been more people sick in five years than the whole population—not of ordinary diseases, but fevers, and that there is not one house in which there has not been a death annually. These are startling facts (hear hear,) and when you find that in Manchester in some of the small enumerated districts the death-rate was in one district 67, per 1.000, and that in another district, now happily swept away, the death-rate amounted to 70 per cent, it must be admitted that there is a great deal of preventable disease." Again: "I have a report of the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester, which shows that in one particular district, out of 100 deaths of persons of all ages, the deaths of children under five years reached the extraordinary rate of 49·7. In Liverpool matters are still worse. The Friendly Societies Commission went very deeply into the question of the death-rate of children; and they found that, while the annual rate of mortality of children under one year on the average of all England amounts to 18 to 100 persons living, in Liverpool it amounted to 30; and between the age of one and two, while the average for England is 6·9, in Liverpool it is 18½." But in Calcutta no such enquiries have been made. The Health-Officer has year after year published sensational and exaggerated reports without giving one iota of information about the rate of mortality in the bustis, and now the Justices propose to take sweeping measures without making any enquiry of the kind—without in fact first satisfying themselves as to whether disease really prevails there in an inordinate degree. It needs be noted here that there is great difference between the bustis of English towns and Calcutta. It is not true to say that the bustis of Calcutta have no ventilation, the huts are erected on large plots of ground, one group being apart from another, and there being large parcels left unoccupied, which serve as lungs to the whole. Then the tiled huts are so constructed as to secure good ventilation—in fact the *khaprel* arranged as it is on a bamboo frame acts as a ventilator. All the bustis have roads, but not wide enough to admit of conservancy carts, and as for drainage, it is not certainly efficient, but the water does not as a rule accumulate, and the open drains are not worse than the public ditches around them. The houses as a rule are not overcrowded as they are in England. There is not one place in Calcutta, which answers the following description. Mr. Cross said; "it is not simply that houses are overcrowded, but districts are overcrowded, and the air is vitiated. I know of one place in St. Giles where there are 70 streets close together without one single thoroughfare through which the residents can get a breath of pure air." In Calcutta the bye-lanes are more overcrowded than the bustis. Many of these bye-lanes are so narrow that the conservancy carts can hardly drive in, and they are thickly studded with brick-built houses without any pretence to ventilation. The bustis are certainly filthy, and that is because there are not latrines everywhere—the open space is converted into an accommodation for answering the calls of nature, and the tanks or ponds are in not a few cases very dirty. The *Goala* bustis, that is those localities where the milkmen stable their cows, are in a most filthy condition, but we are not quite sure whether cow-dung is productive of disease. The people of this country use it as a means of disinfection or sanitary agent. Be that as it may, it cannot be denied, that the bustis do call for improvement, but how is it to be effected? On this point we would invite the attention of the Justices to what was proposed in the House of Commons. About ten years ago local Acts were passed by Parliament for the improvement of these habitations in Liverpool, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, which authorized the municipal corporation to buy the sites, improve them, and then sell them again. Glasgow we are told has incurred an expenditure of a million and three quarters, taken much of the property adjacent to that which was doomed, resold that which was improved, and reaped great advantage, so much so that an outlay of nearly £2,000,000 may be reduced to one of £300,000, to say nothing of the diminished cost of hospitals and gaols. Mr. Cross's plan under the new Bill is this:

"We think we cannot do better than provide that those who are to carry out the Act should be in the City of London the Corporation; in the rest of the Metropolis the Metropolitan Board of Works; and in other large towns the Town Councils, which are practically the sanitary authority. Who then, shall put the Act in motion? We proceed entirely on sanitary grounds. We don't wish them to make great street improvements for their own glorification. It is only sanitary purposes that we have in view—therefore we think the Act should be put in motion by the medical officer, who, by his own view or called upon by a certain number of ratepayers, would be bound to report and certify whether in his opinion the place was an unhealthy district—whether disease prevailed there, and whether that was attributable to the badness of the houses. If he found it so, he would have to state that in his opinion it was an unhealthy district, and that an improvement scheme ought to be framed for it. That report would be forwarded to the local authority—being in London the Corporation, in the rest of the metropolis the Metropolitan Board of Works, and in large towns the Town Council. The local authorities would then take the matter into their consideration, and if satisfied of the truth of the report, and the practicability of applying a remedy and of the sufficiency of their resources—because we do not call on the Town Councils to ruin themselves—they would pass a resolution that the district was an unhealthy area for which an improvement scheme ought to be provided. The improvement scheme would be accompanied by maps, particulars, and estimates, defining the lands it was proposed to take with compulsory power, and providing for as many of the working classes as might be displaced in that area, either within the limits of the area or the vicinity thereof. In London that is a very essential matter. You cannot pull down a street in St. Gilys's and send the people over to Battersea. If you displace the working class, you must lodge them in the vicinity of the locality, otherwise you make them paupers and deprive them of the means of subsistence."

I don't suppose that any member will think that Town Councils should have the power of taking other people's property without compensation; but here comes a question to which I would seriously invite attention. Every farthing spent in law expenses will undoubtedly raise materially the cost of the room which is eventually to be occupied by the poor workmen, The difference of a shilling a week in the rent may easily be made; therefore, you must take care that no unnecessary cost in law expenses shall be incurred. The Secretary of State will make inquiry, and if he be satisfied with the scheme he will take upon himself the responsibility of passing the Provisional Order through this House, and so save enormous expense to the parties themselves. We think that when the corporations have procured the land by these compulsory powers the time will have arrived when such available capital will be made use of, and, therefore, we give most ample power to the local authority to let or sell the property, on the express condition that there shall be accommodation for the labouring classes. Of course it is possible that the land might be left waste if no power of building were conferred on the local authority, and for this reason, we reserve to the local authority the power to build in special cases, with the consent of the Secretary of State, or the President of the Local Government Board.

It will be seen from the above how tenderly does the Government in England propose to deal with what we call the busti question. The Health-Officer is to report, with maps, specifications &c. and the corporation to decide each and every case of improvement; then the sanction of Government must be obtained and a Bill passed by Parliament through the Home Secretary. Every plot of ground proposed to be improved must be

paid for by the corporation, and then resold with or without buildings. Full compensation should be given to the proprietors in every instance. But here the Justices seem to shew little respect for rights of property. They would confiscate private lands for carrying out improvements, which they have not been able to carry out in respect of ditches and roads in their own charge. We do not believe that the proprietors of bustis in Calcutta are opposed to improvement; what they want is that schemes of improvement should be reasonable, moderate, and economical. The Justices meet next Thursday to discuss this important question and we would recommend them to follow the principles, which have been adopted by Parliament for self-same purposes. If they disregard the principles of justice and equity, we fear they will harvest a crop of litigation in the High Court.

INLAND CUSTOMS AND IMPORT DUTIES.

A BETTER case could not have been made out against the repeal of the import duties than the remarks made by His Excellency the Viceroy in reference to the Inland Customs Bill. The object of that Bill is to diminish as far as practicable the difficulties, which clog internal trade by reason of the existence of the Inland Customs line. That object has however been only partially accomplished. The Customs' line is a source of great annoyance, inconvenience and hardship, and the sooner it is abolished the better. Mr. Ellis, the author of the Bill, said, "he hoped that the Bill would not be a long-lived one, and that it would not remain many years on the Statute-book; he hoped rather that, on an early day, the Government might see its way to abolish the customs-line altogether, and introduce a system which would be a permanent one, and under which all inland trade would be entirely freed from the inconveniences to which it was now necessarily subjected." His Excellency the Viceroy remarked:

"Before this Bill passes, I wish to say that I heartily agree with the wish that my friend Mr. Ellis, has expressed that this Bill may not remain long upon our Statute-book. It is the opinion of the Government of India that, in the first place, the present export duty upon sugar manufactured in British territories, when it crosses the customs line, is one of the worst of our present taxes, and one of the first which the Government would desire to take off. Secondly, we think that the customs line itself is a great evil. It impedes trade, and it can hardly be supposed that the management of a long line of that kind—although I believe that the rules have been carried out with every care to prevent oppression of the people by the subordinate officials employed—can possibly be carried on without considerable pressure and inconvenience to those who are in the habit of crossing and re-crossing the line. It is therefore, in the opinion of Government most desirable that free trade should be established between the States which are now divided by the customs line. We have been able already to remove the Southern customs line, but all those who have paid attention to the subject know that the Northern customs line cannot be removed, until arrangements are made with the Native States of Rajpootana and Central India, where salt is produced. For if the line was removed without such precautions, salt would be introduced into British territory without having paid the tax, and our salt revenue, which, in my opinion, is one of the soundest sources of revenue in India, would be seriously affected. I am happy to inform members of Council that I see hopes, indeed, I may say that I anticipate with confidence, that arrangements may be made which will enable us to overcome this difficulty. One of the most distinguished of the Princes of India—the Maharajah Holkar is now on a visit to Calcutta. I have had the pleasure of some conversation with His Highness upon this subject, and I am happy to be able to say that, as far as the State of Indore is concerned, I believe we shall be able to make a satisfactory arrangement. Therefore I will go somewhat further than my honorable friend Mr, Ellis, and say not only that I wish, but that I anticipate that, before many years have passed, this Bill will be removed from the Statute Book."

We hail with a peculiar pleasure these remarks of the Viceroy. They shew that His Excellency is in earnest on the subject, and that he will take an early opportunity to abolish the Customs' line. We may observe that its abolition has been contemplated for the last few years, but the financial exigencies of the State did not admit of its being carried out. Now the question arises, whether this serious clog to internal trade or the import duties should be abolished first. If taxation is to be regulated by a consideration of the means, circumstances, and convenience of the people affected by it, the answer to that question is easy enough. The import duties do not in the least press upon the people. It is true that these duties are in reality paid by the consumer, but they are not so high as to interfere in a sensible manner with his capacity for consumption. Ninety-nine out of a hundred scarcely know that they pay a duty upon the cloth they wear. The duty is levied at the Custom's office, and there is therefore no obstacle thrown in the way of trade. On the other hand the Customs' line is a source of great practical inconvenience and annoyance. For one anna of the tax the trader pays, he has we fear to pay another anna to the myrmidons of the customs. And then the inconvenience of loading and unloading and the consequent expense and trouble. And all the charges the trader incurs he recovers from the consumer. This is a serious hardship, and a wise and enlightened Government ought not to tolerate it a day longer than it can help. The remarks of the Viceroy shew that he is fully alive to the gravity of the question, and we hope that His Excellency will see the Inland Customs abolished before he lays down the sceptre.

The question of the import duties is however in the hands of a powerful confederacy. We have lately seen how Manchester has plied the Secretary of State on the subject. Lord Salisbury was at first very firm; but the seductive influence of Manchester has unfortunately proved too much for him. We could scarcely conceive that a statesman, so enlightened, sagacious, and independent, would fall into the trap laid by Manchester. What has since transpired which could induce the noble Marquis to alter his views expressed with great decision not six months ago? Not many years ago the import duties were lowered to conciliate Cottonopolis, and the result is the loss of revenue to the tune of half a million. Another half a million or more must be sacrificed, if the present duties are to be repealed. Is the Indian Treasury prepared for this loss? We say, no, but if there be a surplus we submit that it cannot be applied to a better purpose than to the extinction of the customs-line. We hear much about England's mission in the East, but does that mission consist in pandering to the wishes of Manchester, in benefiting English manufacturers, and starving Indian trade? It is said that England governs India for the good of India, but the course of English legislation regarding Indian commerce shews that its primary object has been the benefit of English trade. Our looms are destroyed, our sugar gone, our saltpetre paralyzed, and the revival of our cotton industry is again threatened. Surely this is governing India for the good of India with a vengeance. The dumb millions of India have no voice, and they cannot make the wrongs they labor under heard in the imperial country. On the present occasion we are happy to see that His Excellency the Viceroy has come forward to speak for the millions, who are suffering from the oppressions of the Indian Customs-line, and we do hope that for once justice will be done to them. Manchester will of course continue to grumble and agitate, but if the good of the people of India be the real object of Government, its course is clear. What does it matter whether a few manufacturers of Manchester pocket more profits or not—the duty of the Government is to see that the Queen's subjects are really benefited. It is true that they can badger the Secretary of State in Parliament, but a strong Minister ought not to sink under such a shadow. Manchester tried the same dodge with Sir Charles Wood, but failed. Why should Lord Salisbury allow it to hope for better success with him?

THE PARLIAMENT UPON THE BENGAL FAMINE.

IN the course of the debate on the Address to the Throne there were some allusions made to the Bengal Famine of last year. Earl Donoughmore, who moved the Address in the House of Lords, said:

"In the Speech from the Throne last year Her Majesty referred to the then impending famine, and Parliament was told that the Viceroy and the Council of India had been directed to spare no pains in order that the effects of that famine might be mitigated as far as possible. In the debate on the Address expression was given to a hope that in this country also exertion would be made with the same object. The account of the Bengal Famine Fund which had appeared showed how nobly that appeal had been answered. We all know how the enormous difficulties of the case had been overcome; and it might now be asserted that but for what had been done to meet and check it the destruction of human life among the teeming multitudes who inhabited British India would have been great beyond calculation. (Hear hear.) Whatever might be the future history of the relations between this country and India, there could be little doubt that the recollection of what had been done for the natives in the recent crisis would be remembered with thankfullness, and would go far to not only reconcile, but attach them to the rule of Great Britain. (Cheers.) Among those who in connection with Her Majesty's Government had ably aided in carrying out the precautionary measures were the past and the present Governors of Bengal—(hear, hear)—and he was glad to have this opportunity of paying a tribute to the Viceroy of India to whose kindness he was indebted for many favours. He was in India, when Lord Northbrook arrived, and he has watched the growth of that confidence which his lorship now enjoyed in India, and which was but a reflex of the confidence extended to him by the noble marquis at the head of the India Office and the other persons with whom he was in official connection. (Cheers.)"

Earl Granville, the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords, referred to "the handsome acknowledgment" which is made in the Queen's Speech of the services of the Indian Government in grappling with the famine, and added:

"We understand Her Majesty has been advised to confer distinction on Lord Northbrook as a mark of the high admiration evoked by his energy in dealing with a formidable calamity. The noble Marquis has also rendered justice to Lord Northbrook in a speech he made elsewhere; but I must remark it has also been stated that the whole credit belongs to the noble Marquis the Secretary of State. On both sides of the House it is admitted that Lord Northbrook displayed ability, sagacity, and industry, and that he resisted clamour, which made it all the more difficult for him to carry out his policy. I am sure the noble marquis will agree that the merit of selecting Lord Northbrook is due to the Duke of Argyll; and that the claim of the noble marquis to credit is based on the fact that he made himself perfect master of the facts of the case and in spite of inducement to reverse the policy already adopted, he firmly supported it, and in the most public way gave his support to Lord Northbrook."

In the House of Commons Mr. Whitlaw, in seconding the Address, said:

"It was gratifying to know that the famine which was passing most harshly upon parts of India a year ago had been met with so much energy by Her Majesty's Government that its evil effects were reduced to the lowest possible point. The voluntary gifts of the English people towards the means devised for the relief of the sufferers formed only a small part of the machinery which it was necessary to call into operation, but the fact of the contributions being made could not fail to have touched the Indian mind, and to have called into existence a grateful sense of the fact that English hearts sympathized with Indian woes and desired to put an end to the sufferings which had fallen upon so large a section of the nation."

The Marquis of Hartington, the new Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, remarked:

"The House will look, and I am sure it will not look in vain to the right hon. gentleman at the head of the Government to express in befitting terms its sense of what it owes to the Indian Government of Lord Northbrook for having so admirably met the calamity of the great Indian famine. On behalf, however, of Lord Northbrook's colleagues who sit on these benches near me, I cannot refrain from offering my humble tribute to the energy and fortitude with which he grappled throughout with that grave difficulty, and to the moral courage with which he took his own course, in opposition sometimes to authority of very great weight. He has done enough, and not more than enough, to save the afflicted provinces, without unnecessarily disturbing trade or demoralizing the people by undue assistance."

Mr. Disreali thus concluded this part of the debate:

"Mr. Disraeli said the noble lord seemed to think that we had been somewhat scant in our acknowledgment of the great public services of Her Majesty's Viceroy, and of the manner in which he encountered that terrible calamity which at one time seemed almost to be inevitable in that part of her dominions. But the noble lord acknowledged that in the Speech from the Throne on the occasion of the prorogation, when the subject was naturally touched upon, the Government did full justice to the great exertions of Lord Northbrook, and I believe when the time arrives when he may probably have occasion himself to address his countrymen on so important an event in his Viceroyalty, we shall have from him no indication that he has not been supported throughout those trying circumstances with all the energy and sympathy of those who at present advise the Crown, (Hear, hear.)"

This was only a preliminary debate. We believe the Ministry will take an early opportunity to lay before both Houses the final reports on the Famine, move votes of thanks to the officers of the Indian Government, and testify the appreciation of the Queen of the services of some of the most distinguished and deserving among them by suitable marks of honor.

POPULATION AND FOOD.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE'S report on the Bengal Famine of 1874 contains some very interesting facts and observations on the pressure of population on food supplies in this province. In the first place he points out that the emigration statistics do not show any tendency on the part of the people of denser districts to seek new fields of labour. For some years past about 30,000 persons have emigrated annually from Calcutta to the tea districts of Assam and to the British colonies. Very few of those emigrants come from the thickly peopled districts of Bengal or Behar; indeed Behar has hitherto contributed only 14 per cent, and Bengal proper barely 5 per cent. of all the emigrants who start from Calcutta. In November and December 1873 attempts were

made to collect, in the densely peopled districts of Sarun and Tirhoot, a large number of families who would be willing to emigrate to Assam. It was found that unless liberal bounties were allowed and a regular staff maintained for recruiting emigrants, no perceptible relief could be afforded to the distressed districts. The scheme of emigration to British Burma proved equally unsuccessful in drawing the surplus population of over-populated districts. These facts may throw some little light on the question whether the pressure of the population of Bengal generally is too heavy for the resources of the land. The trade returns of Bengal show that the land not only yields enough for the sustenance of the people but a great deal more. The following quantities of food and other products are annually exported from Bengal ports :

About 400,000 tons of rice(besides 40,000 tons sent annually up the Ganges into the North-Western Provinces); About 175,000 tons of oil-seeds of different kinds; about 380,000 tons of jute and jute fabrics: about 10,000 tons of indigo and opium from Bangal alone—

These products, together with miscellaneous raw produce exports, occupy about 3,750,000 acres of the best arable land in the country; so that Bengal can in ordinary years support her own population, and can spare more than one-twelfth of her cultivated land for production of food and other staples for the use of other countries. The agricultural statistics for Bengal are notoriously defective, but we know, says Sir Richard Temple that notwithstanding the great extension of cultivation during the last eighty years, there are still large areas of fertile soil awaiting the plough in Purneah, Dinagepore, Chittagong, Julpigoree, North Bhagulpore, and in Chota Nagpore. Along the whole northern border of the most populous districts (which last year were also the most distressed) of Behar and Bengal, stretches a wide strip of fertile land awaiting the approach of cultivation. To the south of central Bengal lie the Sunderbuns, where, even allowing sufficient land for forest reserves, there are broad areas of rich waste available for settlers from the thickly-peopled districts of Bengal. To the west again of Behar and Bengal are situate the districts of the Chota Nagpore division, where the population is comparatively sparse, and where perhaps barely one-fifth of the land has yet been brought under the plough. In the rich valleys of Assam and Cachar there is ample space for any population that may overflow from Eastern Bengal for very many years to come. There are thus on all sides of Bengal wide areas of uncultivated land available for such surplus population as may migrate from the districts of Bengal and Behar. Sir George Campbell instituted the systematic collection of agricultural statistics in 1872. As yet this work has been completed for the district of Jessore only. The results for that district show that much of the land produces two crops a year, and that lands given up wholly to food-crops yield on an average about one ton of clean rice to the acre; that is to say, an acre supplies ample food for four people for a whole year. In this case the land is yielding enough for the dense population settled on it and for a large exportation besides. In the three sub-divisions of the Jessore district, for which accurate statistics have been collected, the proportion of food-crop area and of double crop land has been found to be as follows :—

	Acres.
Total area—1,581 square miles, equal to	1,011,840
Total crop-producing land	749,832
Land producing two or more crops a year	75,699
Area under food-crops	661,798

Out of this last total (661,798 acres) more than 75,000, equal to 11 per cent. of the whole, produces two food-crops in the year. In this tract, therefore 89 per cent. of the cultivated land produces food; but it is notorious that the Jessore district yields a large surplus of rice. sugar, and other food stuffs for export to Calcutta and Western Bengal. Estimates made by competent authorities for Backergunge, Dacca, and the Sunderbuns, put the yield for those districts above one ton of rice to the acre. And some of the best lands in Eastern Bangal produce three instead of two food-crops in the year. At the rate of half a ton of food to the acre, one square mile (640 acres) of food-crop land would support 1,280 persons. The area of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa (exclusive of Chota Nagpore, the Chittagong and Tipperah Hills and the tributary states,) amounts to 133,924 square miles, with a population of 443 persons to the square mile. In the absence of correct agricultural statistics, the best estimate of the cultivated area says Sir Richard Temple is that in these three provinces about 48 millions of acres (equal to 75,000 square miles) are under cultivation. It is estimated that about four-fifths of this area bear food-crops. By this reckoning 38 millions of acres produce food; one-twelfth of the produce will more than meet all requirements for seed grain; so there remain 35 millions of acres for food, which will support 70 millions of people. But the population of these three provinces is only 59½ millions. Therefore if the estimate now offered is near the truth, there is, without reckoning the yield of double crop lands, a considerable margin of food produce to meet demands for exportation, and to cover short production or occasional failure of crops over limited areas. In western Bengal, especially Burdwan, and in Behar, the wages of unskilled labour are very low indeed, and there are large classes who live poorly in ordinary years. Their depressed condition has been strikingly apparent during the troubles of 1874. But recent investigations have shown that even in the Burdwan country the poorer classes are, in respect of petty comforts and conveniences, better off than they were twenty years ago. In eastern and northern Bengal the wages of unskilled labour are comparatively high, there is no pauper class, and the petty occupiers of the land are almost to a man comfortably off. For instance in the Rungpore district, where the population averages 619 to the square mile, and the whole people make a comfortable living by the land, it would be almost impossible to collect five thousand workmen in any one place. The road-making, the palanquin-carrying, and the harder menial duties throughout Rungpore are usually done by sturdy immigrants who visit Rungpore and Cooch Behar annually from the less fertile districts of Chota Nagpore and Sonthalia.

It will be thus seen that the supposition that the increase of population is on the whole exceeding the food supply of the country is not altogether correct. Not only is there a large margin of food-crop for exportation, but there is a vast area of cultural land awaiting the plough. It is true that in some districts the population is inconveniently dense and consequently steeped in poverty, but there are good and valid reasons for this pauperism. In those districts not a small portion of the population is in the position of day-labourer, and superabundance of population tends to keep down the wages of labour. But in the economy of life the prices adjust themselves to the means of the people. There rice generally seles from 20 to 35 seers to the rupee. The people do not consequently starve ; but at the same time it cannot be denied that they live from hand to mouth. Their condition is an economic problem of great practical importance and deserves the serious attention of our Government. We will discuss this part of the subject in a future issue.

THE GAEKWAR'S TRIAL.

WE take from the morning papers the following telegrams regarding the Gaekwar's trial :

ELEVENTH DAY.

Baroda, 8th March 14*h.* 55*m.*—Damoodhur Trimbuck Punt, Gaekwar's Private Secretary's examination—Said he remembered giving arsenic and diamond dust to Salim on two occasions, under directions from the Gaekwar. He procured the arsenic from Nowradin Borah. On the morning of the poisoning, the Gaekwar told him that Rowjee had been in too great a hurry in administering the poison. He detailed his conversations with the Gaekwar. The Gaekwar on one occasion told witness that Rowjee was a clever man, but a great liar. when inquiries were set on foot he was cautioned by the Gaekwar not to speak, but to watch the inquiry at the Residency, and keep him informed. He said he mentioned to the Gaekwar that Rowjee had confessed on promise of pardon. The Gaekwar replied that Salim and Yeshwuntrao had been told not to confess.

17*h.* 35*m* —Damodhur's examination continued :—He was promised pardon on condition of making a full confession. He narrated how the private accounts were kept, Sergeant Ballantine during the course of the examination objected to the reception of these documents. Mr. Scoble said he would prove that they referred to bribes given to the Residency servants, under the cloak of fictitious headings. The president overruled the objection allowing reception of the papers. The witness distinctly swore that the payments were made to the Residency servants. The accounts of the Gaekwar's private office were put in evidence. Nine other witnesses remaining. All their statements corroborative regarding the documentary evidence. Witnesses for the defence will be recalled. Scindia and the Gaekwar were present only during the forenoon.

Bombay, 8th March, 18*h.* 20*m.*—Damoodhur Punt, the Gaekwar's Private Secretary, deposed buying arsenic, diamonds, and diamond dust on two occasions. By the Maharajah's orders arsenic was handed to Salim, and the diamond dust to Yeswuntrao. The arsenic was represented to be medicine for horses and to cure itch. Witness inquired from Yeswuntrao why diamond dust was wanted. Yeswuntrao replied, "To make powder," to give Colonel Phayre. The Maharajah had said the diamonds were for the crown of the high priest of Akulkote. When Rowjee was apprehended the Maharajah cautioned Yeswuntrao Salim and witness that if any inquiry took place, not to confess anything. When witness confessed he did not know what Nursoo and Nowjee had said. Witness was examined lengthily to show that those entries in his accounts for fruits fireworks etcetera were really for payments to the Residency servants. The examination was not concluded when the Court rose.

TWELFTH DAY.

Baroda, March 9th, 14*h.* 53*m.*—Damoodhur Punt's examination continue !—He spoke of having debited the price of the diamonds against the lighting and nuzzerana account saving. He said that Nowradin Borah was never paid for the arsenic supplied, but was promised the superintendence of the palace dispensary. Salim told him that Col. Phayre was sufferring from a boil on the forehead. That Rowjee put the arsenic into the plaster, but took it off when Col. Phayre complained of a burning sensation. Under the Gaekwar's orders, he ordered a medicine, composed of large ants, serpents, and urine from a black horse. Got medicine from Hakimjee and gave to Salim. Under the Gaekwar's directions, he blotted with ink the entries of payment made to Salim in the daily journals. Serjeant Ballantine cross-examined—He admitted receiving general orders from the Gaekwar to falsify the accounts when he heard of the attempt. He did not destroy criminating papers, because copies were in five different places. He made confession, because he had been in confinement sixteen days. He knew he would not be released until he did so. Several items in the accounts were fictitiously entered as paid to Salim, but really to the Residency servants for affording information.

17*h.* 46*m.*—Damoodhur's cross-examination continued—Arsenic was obtainable from the Sazdari by order of the Gaekwar. The Gaekwar on that occasion ordered it to be brought from the bazar. Hemchund, Futtehchund, jeweller, denied having sold diamond dust to the Gaekwar's agents. He retracted the deposition made to Mr. Souter to the above effect. Cross-examined with permission of the President by Mr, Inverarity on his deposition and the account books. He said he was compelled to sign the deposition and make false entires by order of the police. Serjeant Ballantine to-day asked the President whether it was not possible to change the hour of sitting. The President said he was afraid it was not practicable. Would inform him to morrow. The heat was unbearable. Dust storms commencing.

15h. 11*m.* Hemchund, jeweller, questioned by Serjeant Ballantine said he had no transactions with the Gaekwar about diamonds this time. He did not know what diamond dust was. In reply to Mr. Scoble's re-examination he could not recognize Mr. Souter in Court. Gujanund Vittul wrote whatever he liked Had been annoyed up to present day. He was obliged to admit the genuineness of the entries in the books showing that several diamond jeweils were made for the Gaekwar. Witness was severely cross examined upon these entries. He maintained that portions of the accounts had been tampered with. The Gaekwar was absent. Scindia was present only a portion of the forenoon.

19*h.* 30*m.* Nanajee Vittul employed in the jellelry department deposed having purchased diamonds at the direction of Damoodhur Punt, from Herachund Futechund jeweller, value rupees 3,000. He was arrested the same day, as the Gaekwar. He stated there was a memo about the purchase of the diamonds which was given to Damoodhur Punt, who said he would destroy it.

THIRTEENTH DAY.

10*th March* Hemchund Fettychund cross-examined. Entries in the books showing sales of loose diamonds to the Gaekwar are false. Were made under threats from Gujanund Vittul who then seized the books. Never sold the Gaekwar any loose diamonds but have sold ornaments Necklaces Noserings &c., made statement before Vittul who wrote down what he liked and then said if I did not sign he would send me to prison. So I signed, my books seem to have had leaves taken out and others substituted, did not do this or cause it to be done. Two months hence (since?) Gujanund seized books. Nanajee Vittul who had charge of Gaekwar's jewell department said that he was acting upon orders from Punt. He purchased loose diamonds from last witness for the Gaekwar.

10*th March.* Punt's examination continued—He said that Nurruddeen asked for Rs. 200 to conceal the name of the party who purchased the arsenic, and witness promised it should be made up to him afterwards He also said that he heard Rowjee say that Colonel Phayre suffered from boils, and he had put arsenic in a plaster which Colonel Phayre applied. He spoke of another attempt to poison Coloney Phayre by means of a mixture of ants, snake-poison, and other materials. Witness's accounts were produced, and shewed several items obliterated, which witness said referred to purchases of poison, and obliterated by the Maharajah's order. Cross-examined by Serjeant Ballantine—Received only a verbal order of the Maharajah to obliterate the items. He confessed the truth in order to be liberated from jail, and pardoned. He was unable to fix the dates when he gave out the poisons. Hemchund Futteychund, jeweller, from whom Punt stated the diamonds were purchased, now said that nothing of the sort had occurred, and he had never made the statement (produced) before the police. The entries in his books, showing sales of diamonds, were false. He was obliged to make them, under threats, on the day he was taken before the Commissioner of Police.

FOURTEENTH DAY.

11*th March,* 13*h.* 11*m.*—Atmarah Rugoonath, assistant to Nanajee Vittul, of the jewel department, gave evidence to-day. He deposed that diamonds were purchased by Punto from Fatimchund, jeweller, through Nanajee Vittul; but about *dewallee* time, the *Yad* authorizing the purchase was taken back by Nanajee Vittul from Fatimchund. It is

reported as destroyed. He admitted, in cross-examination, that the diamonds were returned unpurchased, and that the *Yad* was also returned. He had never seen powdered diamond. The work of ornamenting sword-scabbards and jackets with small diamonds was going on at that time, and still is. There were lots of small diamonds in the Gaekwar's store besides. The next witness, Balwuntrao Bowjee, Damoodhur Punt's assistant, deposed that he did not know how the ink obliterations came on the exhibits shewn him. This witness was the man named by Punt, as the one who had poured the ink on the documents in obedience to instruction.

21*h.* 33*m.*—Next witness was employed in Fouzdari, deposed that for eighteen months no poison was dispensed without Gaekwar's signature. In the case alluded to there was no difficulty in obtaining arsenic. Bhow Poonaka, deposed to thirty years residence at Baroda. He was now on special business on behalf of Mr. Hope, Collector Surat Knew Colonel Phayre. Gave information, when requested and never received payment. Heard of the attempt at poisoning from Colonel Phayre. Balwuntrao told him that copper arsenic and diamond powder were mixed and put in the sherbet. witness suffled a great deal, and in cross-examination contradicted. Colonel Phayre's evidence saying he did not know of the Khareeta to the Viceroy, although Colonel Phayre named him as his informant. Next witness Mr. Richie said Damoodur Punt's evidence was given him in Marathi. He took it down in English through an interpreter. Colonel Phayre re-called and examined regarding the document of Government censuring him severely during his employment in Sinde. Serjeant Ballantine requested the witness to hand him the original. Colonel Phayre declined and appealed to the court. The latter ordered him to produce it. Portion of the document was read by Serjeant Ballantine regarding the severe censure, and the Colonel's removal from employment in Sinde. Gajanund Wittul deposed regarding Damoodhur Punt's confession, that he was shown former sections regarding pardons, saying that Nansjee Vittul and others had confessed. Denied Hemchund Futtchund's assertion that he wrote down what he liked. Denied using threats. Cross-examined by Ballantine was rude and insolent called to order by Court. Prosecution ends to-morrow Serjeant Ballantine's defence will probably last three days. Thirty witnesses for the defence. Scoble's reply will probably last two days.

FIFTEENTH DAY.

12*th March*, 16*h.* 6*m.*—When the commission assembled to-day a native clerk from the Collector's Office at Ahmedabad was examined as an expert on the manner in which native books are bound and the number of pages. He deposed that the books produced had twelve leaves taken out, and eleven substituted, and one was missing. Mr. Souter was examined and deposed to taking the ayah's statement as well as Rowjee's and Nursoo's. No pardon was promised to Nursoo. Sir L. Pelly distinctly told him he would be prosecuted. Nursoo took off his turban and laid it at Sir L. Pelly's feet, saying even if hung he must speak the truth regarding all matters Examined Rowjee's belt when he was brought to him. He opened the packet secreted in the belt himself, and and found a white powder. He sealed the packet and took it to Bombay, and gave it to Doctor Gray for analysis, was not present at Punt's first statement. He was absent in Bombay. Gujanan Vittul recalled deposed that Fatimchund gave his evidence partly in Hindustani, partly in Guzrati. Mr. Souter previously deposed that Fatimchund gave it in Hindoostani Fatimchund himself deposed the other day that he did not know a word of Hindustani. Sir L. Pelly was then sworn and allowed to keep his seat on the bench during his evidence. When sworn he would not kiss the book, Sir L. Pelly confirmed Mr. Souter's statements regarding Rowjee and Nursoo. Narrated how Nursoo attempted to commit suicide after his confession, by jumping into the well in the Residency. Cross examined by Serjeant Ballantine he spoke to the Gaekwar's willingness throughout to afford every facility to the inquiry. The prosecution closed at 2 o'clock. The defence will be made to-morrow. The Gaekwar puts in a written statement, Mr. Souter was not cross-examind.

Bombay, 12*th March*. Expert called about alterations in jeweller's book stated that a page was missing. Ballantine elicited the twelve new pages and one missing entries relating to the sale of diamonds on new leaf. Souter examined proved taking jeweller's deposition and others. Pelly called described his coming to Baroda. Gaekwar sincerely anxious to reform state. Souter's first visit disclosed nothing in 21st December. Pelly asked him dine next day then clue obtained. Gaekwar informed of parts and requested to give facilities of inquiry which he promised. From Baroda Mr. Scoble said this closed to his evidence for the prosecution Serjeant Ballantine asked for an adjournment till tomorrow, when he begins his speech for the defence.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE invited the *elite* of the native community of Calcutta on Tuesday last to a river excursion on board the yacht *Rhotas*. More than a hundred native gentlemen were present, and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor and his staff were all attention. The party left Prinsep's Ghat at 2 P. M., and after cruising as far as Budge-Budge wended their way back, and landed at about 6 P. M. His Honor was exceedingly courteous and affable, and entered into familiar converse with the gentlemen present. There was none of that stiffness, which usually characterizes drawing-room parties. Sir Richard has struck out a novel way of mixing with native gentlemen, and his desire to move freely with them is highly appreciated.

THE Hon'ble Mr. Ellis, member of the Governor General's Council, is about to retire. On Tuesday last a social demonstration was made at the Town Hall by giving him a farewell dinner. It was attended by the *elite* of European society, headed by His Excellency the Viceroy. Mr. Ellis is possessed of great abilities, sagacity, and independence, and with the exception of Mr. Hobhouse whose strength lies in his specialty, he is the strongest member of the Executive Council. His hospitality and geniality made him a general favorite in Calcutta society. Our best wishes attend him.

IT IS said that Mr. E. C. Bayley will take leave for six months. There will be thus two seats vacant in the Executive Council. We do not know who the successors of Messrs. Ellis and Bayley will be. We however observe Mr. Eden's name mentioned in connection with these vacancies. We hope this rumour is true. Bengal has been long neglected in the Supreme Council. Since the *reyime* of Lord Lawrence the Punjab or North-West element has been ascendant in the Council, and it is time that some reparation should be done to Bengal.

SPECULATION is rife as to who will succeed the Hon'ble Raja Ramanath Tagore Bahadur C. S. I. in the Vice-regal Council. We believe it is not intended to fill up the vacancy until November next as the Calcutta Session of the Council will be over to-day. We are glad to observe a general appreciation of the services rendered by Raja Romanath Tagore. There were four Bengalis appointed to this Council since its creation, viz., Babu Prossunno Coomar Tagore, Khajeh Abdul Gunny, the Maharaja of Burdwan, and Raja Ramanath Tagore. The first was too ill to take an active part in the deliberations of the Council. The second and third were dummies. Raja Ramanath Tagore was the only Bengali Member, who vindicated the choice of the Viceroy. May God grant this Nestor of the Hindu community health and strength to continue his useful career in the service of his country!

THE ANNUAL CONVOCATION of the Calcutta University held on Saturday last, Mr. Vice-Chancellor Bayley in the chair, was very flat. The attendance was very poor—not more than thirty Fellows were present, and about 250 visitors, mostly boys. The Vice-Chancellor's address, which occupied about half an hour, was fair and interesting. He dwelt on the present and future of the University. The graduates, who received their degrees on Saturday, were, we understand, entertained by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor at Belvedere the same evening.

LAST SATURDAY'S *Gazette of India* contains the following notification announcing the titles, which the Government has conferred as rewards for services rendered during the recent Famine:

"On the recommendation of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General is pleased to confer the following titulary distinctions as rewards for services rendered during the recent famine:—

The Title of Maharajah.

1. Maharajah Sir Jey Mungul Sing, K. C. S. I., Of Monghyr,—the title of Maharajah to be continued to his son and successor.
2. Maharanee Surnomai, of Cossimbazar,—the title of Maharajah to her next heir and successor, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal for the time being.
3. Sreemuttee Sham Mohinee, of Dinagepore,—the title of Maharajah to her next heir and successor, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal for the time being.
4. Rajah Gopal Chunder Sing Bahadoor, of Sonthalia,—the title of Maharajah as a personal distinction.

II. The Title of Rajah as a personal distinction.

1. Harnath Chowdhree, of Doobulhattee in Rajshahye.
2. Bisscssur Mulya, of Searsole in Burdwan.
3. Ram Runjun Chuckerbutty, of Beerbhoom.
4. Hurbullub Narain Sing, of Bhagulpore.
5. Koomar Radha Prosad Sing, of Doomraon.

III.—The Title of Ranee as a personal distinction.

1. Sreemuttee Shurut Soondaree Debia, of Rajshahye.
2. Sreemuttee Hurro Soondaree Debia, of Searsole in Burdwan.
3. Musammat Hingum Koomaree, of Paindra in Manbhoom.

IV.—The Title of Raie Bahadoor as a personal distinction

I. Shetab Chund Lahoree, of Moorshedabad and Dinagepore.
2. Khetter Mohun Sing, of Dinagepore, Agent of Sreemuttee Sham Mohinee.
3. Nurendra Narain Sing, of Burooaree in Bhagulpore.
4. Roodur Nurain Sing, of Pachgachea in Bhagulpore.
5. Thakoor Maan Sing, of Sookpote in Bhagulpore.
6. Radha Govind Roy Sahib, of Dinagepore.
7. Shama Sunker Roy, of Dinagepore.
8. Romonee Mohun Roy Chowdhree, of Rungpore.
9. Runjee Sing, of West Tirhoot.
10. Hem Chunder Roy, of Purneah.

V.—Title of Khan Bahadoor as a personal distinction.

1. Syud Abdool Hussein, of Monghyr.

We believe this is the first batch, for there are many others, whose services deserve a similar recognition.

LATE on Saturday last a *Gazette Extraordinary* was issued containing the Budget-Statement for 1875-76. We have had no time to analyze it, but give the following abstract of its contents:

"Acounts of 1873-74: Revenue £49,611,711; ordinary expenditure, £51,404,448, of which £3,864,673 for famine relief; public works extraordinary, £3,553,307; total, £54,957,755. Surplus, excluding extraordinary and famine relief, £2,071,936. Deficit, excluding extraordinary, £1,792,737. Deficit, including extraordinary, £5,346,044.

Regular Estimates of 1874-75: Revenue, £50,070,000; ordinary expenditure. £56,623,000, of which £2,442,000, for famine relief; public works extraordinary, £4,035,009; total, £54,658,000. Surplus, excluding extraordinary and famine relief, £1.889,000. Deficit, excluding extraordinary, £5553,000. Deficit, including extraordinary, £4,583,000.

Budget Estimates of 1875-76: Revenue, £49,820,000; ordinary expenditure, £49,314,000; public works extraordinary, £4,360,000; toral, £53,614,000. Surplus, excluding extraordinary, £506,000. Deficit, including extraordinary, £3,794,000.

Loans to be raised in 1875-76, £2,860,000, of which £360,000 from Sindhia and Holkar for railways. Remaining two and half millions by loan in India, terms to be advertised hereafter. No borrowing in England.

No fresh taxation in 1875-76.

Estimated cash balances in India at end of 1874-75, £15,700,042, at end of 1875-76, £14,967,642.

GREAT DISSATISFACTION prevails in Calcutta with the mode of assessment lately adopted by the Justices. Scarcely any definite principle seems to be followed in regulating the assessment. Even leases are not somtimes recognized. Some cases have been brought to our notice, which seem to shew that the assessment has been made upon the basis of profits as if the house-tax were an income tax. The utmost caprice is said to prevail in respect of the assessment of dwelling-houses. The number of appeals filed, about 700 in one block, almost recalls to mind the days of Mr. Vos. And all this has taken place within six months of Mr. Rowe's death. Shade of Josia Rowe!—is on the lips of every rate-payer of the town. If money be the sole object of the Municipality, the Justices or the executive could not have devised a better mode than the one adopted. Justice is proverbially a rare commodity to be had at the hands of the Justices, but we do hope that the Justices who have to bear the odium of the action of the executive, will see things with their own eyes, and put a stop to the present arbitrary and capricious proceedings, which have filled the rate-payers with great alarm and dissatisfaction. The first reform we think should be made in the constitution of the board of Justices for the hearing of appeals. Neither the Chairman nor the Vice-Chairman should sit in appeal, and we believe several independent Justices have declined to sit because they do not like to be hampered by the executive. The board has been so constituted as to eliminate the independent element and to include for the most part *dittoing* Justices. No wonder that with such accommodating Justices the executive carry things in their own way.

A VERY hard case has been laid before us. The proprietors of the permanently settled mehals Haripore and Chowdahazaree, Pergunnah Bahirimota, and the temporarily settled estate of Pergunnah Jullamootah, in the district of Midnapore, have failed to pay in the Government revenue, exceeding a lakh of rupees. They state that their tenantry have suffered from successive disasters. First the epidemic fever, then the drought of 1873, and lastly the cyclone of the 15th October 1874. These successive calamities have entirely prostrated them, and they have not therefore been able to pay in their rents. The zemindars are consequently in arrear; they had applied for time, but the slight extension of time given has not relieved them. They have applied for further extension, and considering the peculiar circumstances of their case we hope that their prayer will be complied with.

THE GOVERNMENT of India has sanctioned the new judicial scheme for the Punjab. It does not aim at a complete separation of the judiciary from the executive. His Excellency the Governor General in Council concurs with the Committee that it is not at present desirable to effect a complete separation between the Judicial and Executive services in the Punjab. No reason has however been assigned why a complete separation is not considered desirable. The revised establishment now sanctioned with the approval of the Secretary of State for India involves an additional charge of Rs. 2,05,890 per annum. Ten more extra-Assistant Commissioners and 74 Munsifs are sanctioned. The ten existing Commissioners at Rs. 2,750 a month are not affected. The two additional Commissioners at Rs. 1,635 are abolished. The Civil and Sessions Judge created receives Rs. 2,250. The 32 Deputy Commissioners are unaffected, as also the 32 first and second grade Assistant Commissioners. The 16 officers of the 3rd grade are omitted, "the sanction for that grade being nominal." The Naib Tehsildars are retained.

OUR ATTENTION has been directed to a curious circular from the Collector of Tanjore published in the *Native Public Opinion*. It is addressed "to every Deputy Collector, Tahsildar, Firkha Sub-Magistrate, Sea Customs Superintendent, Land Customs Amin, Salt Superintendent, and Chattram Superintendent, and Manager and the Sirkhel, and the Manager of the Sheali Estate." They are required to post within 24 hours a tabular statement shewing their property and income. They are told that "intentional omission or mis-statement, which may subsequently come to light, will be jealously scrutinized, and may lead to grave consequences." We do not know the object of this inquisitorial enquiry, or whether it has been set on foot with the sanction of Government. Many are the vagaries of Mofussil *Hakims*, but this we confess is not surpassed by any.

WE ARE surprised that two such well-informed papers as the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer* should still persist in misunderstanding the action of Government in pouring in rice into the distressed districts of Behar during the scarcity of 1874. They seem to believe that there was no necessity for Government supplies inasmuch as the prices in Behar were not higher than those in the afflicted tracts of the North Western Provinces. But what was it that kept down the prices in Behar? It was Government rice. This point has been so clearly set forth in Sir Richard Temple's report on the Famine that we cannot do better than state the case in his own words. He says:

"Comparisons are sometimes made between the prices of food-grains which have prevailed in Behar and northern Bengal (into which provinces vast quantities of Government grain have been poured) during 1874 with the prices which have prevailed during the same period in neighbouring portions of the North-Western Provinces, and in other parts of Bengal, where no Government grain was sent. Surprise seems to have been sometimes felt that with all the scarcity of private grain in north Behar and in other distressed places, with all impending misery and mortality averted only by Government aid, the prices, quoted in the local markets for other food-grains as well as rice, should have been not essentially dearer than those qouted in other districts where distress was but slight, or did not exist at all, and should not have reached the high prices that ruled in previous famines. Such comparisons, however, are manifestly inapplicable to the circumstances of the case. It was the policy of Government, and nothing else but that, which prevented prices in Behar in 1874 from becoming dearer than those of Hindoostan, and from reaching the rates of former famines. This policy in Behar acted indirectly to prevent prices in the immediately adjoining districts of the North-Western Provinces rising in sympathy with Behar rates. If there had been no importation by Government, Behar would have attracted an excessive quantity of grain from those districts, and would so have caused prices there to touch famine rates. Nothing short of this policy could save the mass of human life which was in jeopardy. The Government poured into the distressed districts 460,000 tons of grain, and by paying a part of the railway charges, assisted private dealers to import 530,000 tons more. The importation by Government kept down prices in north Behar. The private importation, thus encouraged by Government kept down prices in south Behar. The Government grain was distributed in all the remoter and more distressed tracts, and was sold to the public at rates adjusted according to the prices of neighbouring marts. When wholesome Burmah rice was to be had at these rates close to every village, the common rice of the country, though preferred to Burmah rice, must necessarily follow that standard. In short, the Government was obliged in parts of north Behar to take into its own hands the supply of food for the people. It is therefore manifestly impossible to compare the prices of a place and a time, wherein Government so seriously and potentially interposed, with the prices of other places and other times, where there has not been such interposition."

This we submit is a complete answer to the cavillings of our contemporaries. We can well understand the chagrine which some traders have felt from the discomfiture of their calculations to feed upon the miseries of the starving population. They wanted to make the calamity of the people a golden opportunity for themselves, and they were deservedly and signally defeated in their nefarious object by a far-seeing and humane Government. Strange to say that journalists, who ought to lead public opinion in right channels, instead of thanking the Government for the eminent services it has rendered to the cause of humanity, should fall foul of it by ignoring facts which are as clear as the noon-day sun.

REVIEW.

Banga Bijeta—an Historical Romance of the time of Emperor Akbar. By Romesh Chunder Dutt B. C. S. Bhowaneepore; 1874.

IT was a standing reproach of English educated youths of Bengal that the most distinguishing trait in their character was their gross ignorance of the vernacular of their country and of every thing native to it. We do not say that this reproach was altogether groundless, but we are glad to say that the educated youths of the present day have fairly outlived it. We have now some of the accomplished Bengali writers in the ranks of English-speaking natives, and there are not a few amongst them whose knowledge of Sanskrit is not mean or contemptible. We believe we do not exaggerate when we say that many of the best books in Bengali, which are considered valuable contributions to the language, are from the pen of English-knowing Bengalis Another complaint which we often heard and in which we shared was that the Bengali books which came out of the press were generally verbatim translations or translated compilations. A want of originality in these compositions was greatly felt, and some went to the length of saying that the Bengali mind did not possess that stamina which conduced to the production of original thoughts and ideas. We never shared in this belief and that for good reasons. The language itself was and is in a state of formation, new words were being coined for the expression of new ideas, and new regions were being added to the domain of our literature. The vocabulary of the language as the medium of thought for a people in a state of progress was still incomplete, and the efforts of the pioneers were directed more to the improvement and development of the language than to the thoughts to be embodied in that language. It might be easily imagined how the early writers or more properly translators struggled to enrich the language with a new stock of words. It is not practicable at once to coin words and produce new and original thoughts. The language is now sufficiently advanced, copious and rich to allow scope for original thinking, thanks to the labors of Pundit Eswar Chunder Vidysagara, Babu Okhoy Coomar Dutt, Babu Rajendralala Mitra, Mr. Michael Mudhusudon Datta, Babu Bunkim Chunder Chatterjee and others. Babu Romesh Chunder Dutt, whose work heads this article, is a promising competitor in this field. We must confess that we took up the book with great diffidence and laid it down with an agreeable surprise and much pleasure. It at once reminded us of that charming, though somewhat unwieldy volume of Babu Protapa Chundra Ghosha's *Bangadhip Purajya*, an historical romance, which the author before us has evidently made his model. There is beauty in the conception of the story of Banga Bijeta, and skill and ingenuity in its execution. Most of the characters have been well drawn, which have been improved by the local character of the story. The style is easy and not inelegant and the language flowing. The descriptions are full and graphic. Though we have dwelt thus on the merits of the performance, we hope the author will bear with us if we point out what we consider its defects and blemishes. The story is based on historical events which took place in Bengal three hundred years ago, the scenes lie in Bengal and most of the actors are Bengali characters, and yet in reading the book one scarcely feels that he is in the midst of Bengal scenes and conversing with Bengalis,—the characters are Bengalis only in name. The book does not carry us to Bengal scenes nor does it give us any idea of the manners and customs of the Bengalis three hundred years ago. The description of the Asram at Bongong is much like that of an Asram described in Sakuntolah, and yet no one will say that three hundred years ago a Bengal Asram and those described by Kalidasa were alike. Though Bengali females had greater latitude of action in the age of the events described in the story there never was unrestricted communication between unmarried males and females—much less for matrimonial alliance in the usual form of courtship. There is something unnatural in interpolating these scenes in a Bengali story. Sukuni is an important character, and yet we know him only by the results of the actions ascribed to him. He should have been brought upon the stage and made to act his part. There is a sameness in the female characters Amala, Bimala, Kamala and Sarala which renders it difficult for one to distinguish who is the heroine of the story. Then philosophing or moralizing at intervals in the course of the story though supported by very high authorities is objectionable. It were better that the story had been allowed to run an uninterrupted course and the reader left to deduce morals for himself. A good novelist should as much as possible conceal his identity from the reader's gaze; he should speak though the creatures of his brain. If he appears himself every now and then on the stage, an impression is left on the reader's mind as if he has no confidence in his power of portraiture. The book we believe is intended for all classes of readers, and there may be many amongst them who have no knowledge of English. The English extracts in the shape of mottos are therefore out of place. As to the language though we commend it, we regret that the author has allowed Anglicisms to creep in here and there. Possibly this is an unconscious result of his English studies and associations. He is, however, full of promise of future excellence, and we have taken the liberty to point out these minor defects in the hope that he will correct them in his future attempts. We heartily commend the book to the reader.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

London 5th February 1875.

In connection with the depreciatory remarks of the Calcutta Correspondent of the *Times* about the Bengalis, it may not be uninteresting to know that the high estimate which Englishmen have learnt to form of the courage and heroism of the Sikhs, is quite of recent date. In support of this statement, I make the following extract from Cunningham's History of the Sikhs:—

"In 1842 they (the Siks) were held to be unequal to cope with the Afghans, and even to be inferior in martial qualities to the population of the Jummoo hills. In 1845, the Lahore Soldiery was called a "rabble," in sober official despatches, and although subsequent descriptions allowed the regiments to be composed of the Yeomanry of the country the army was still declared to be daily deteriorating as a military body. It is, indeed, certain that English officers and Indian Sepoys equally believed they were about to win battles by marching steadily and by the discharge of a few artillery shots, rather than by skilful dispositions, hard fighting, and a prolonged contest."

It was not indeed until Moodkee, Ferozeshuhur, Alewal and Subraon had been fought, that Englishmen began to think differently of the Siks and of their martial qualities. But the history of the rise of the Sikh sect is full of instructive lessons to us Bengalis. If the Calcutta Correspondent of the *Times* really wanted to shew that the "condition of the Bengalis was hopelessly sunk," he could not have hit upon a more unhappy comparison than that which he instituted between the Bengalis and the Sikhs. The intimate connexion which exists between our thoughts, our aspirations and the bodily organisation, is now only slowly beginning to be felt. Purifying images, noble aspirations and benignant thoughts, exercise a beneficial influence upon the human frame. This influence may not always be so palpable; but wherever observation has been drawn to it, the beneficial influence of lofty aspirations and ennobling thoughts upon the bodily frame, has always been made apparent. A remarkable case in point is afforded by the history of the Sikhs. "A living spirit," says Cunningham (second edition page 82) possesses the whole Sikh people, and the impress of Govind has not only elevated and altered the constitution of their minds *but has operated materially and given amplitude to their physical frames.* The features and external form of a whole people have been modified, and a Sikh chief is not more distinguishable by his stately person and free and manly bearing, than a minister of his faith is by a loftier thoughtfulness of look, which marks the fervour of his soul, and his persuasion of the near presence of the Divinity.' Cunningham adds in a note, "This physical change has been noticed by Sir Alexander Barnes, by Elphinstone, and it also slightly struck Malcolm."

If then in the midst of the darkness of those times, a Nanak and a Govind "could rouse the dormant energies" of an enslaved and comparatively feeble race and "fill them with a lofty longing for social freedom and national ascendancy," may we not reasonably hope that with all the light and knowledge of the century in which we live and in spite of the enervating influences of the climate (which influences we learn from the history of the Siks can at all events be partially counteracted) we may come across some land-mark of thought, some creed of social regeneration, which may perhaps be found sufficient to "relight with Promethean fire" the not yet extinct spark of our national life. Our alleged want of bodily strength therefore is no argument to shew that we are hopelessly sunk; nor ought it to serve as a pretext to any of our countrymen to despair of the future. We are as capable of bodily as we undoubtedly are of mental improvement. And what is so hopeful, in this

matter, is that the mind acts upon the body in a manner, not generally suspected.

The Marquis of Salisbury addressed a large meeting at Manchester on Saturday the 23rd of January, in reply to an address presented to him by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. The speech was in many respects, very instructive. There was of course the usual compliment upon the administrative abilities of Englishmen in the Military and Civil Service. "There is nothing," says Lord Salisbury, "to my mind more marvellous than the qualities which are displayed by our countrymen in the East. You have not picked your men with any singular care. You might almost, without exaggeration, say that you take educated Englishmen at random and place them in positions of high command, and you find that when the emergency comes nine out of ten, or a far larger proportion—men in whom at home you would have seen no peculiar or conspicuous abilities—will display those splendid qualifications of courage, of calmness, of resource and of descernment which have justly enabled Englishmen to claim for themselves the title of an imperial race." These remarks, however, are almost immediately followed by an account of administrative failures which seems as if it had been furnished by some body else to refute the testimony which Lord Salisbury has borne to the high character for administration, of the English rulers of India.

"The difficulties," says Lord Salisbury, "which surround the question of irrigation are very great. We can scarcely yet be said to have had one genuine instance of financial success. The irrigating projects that have been carried out, if they have had for their basis the former works of Native rulers, have, in many instances, been a financial success. * * In those instances, where we have begun the projects of irrigation for ourselves, we have not reached, I believe in any one instance the desired result of a clean balance sheet."

On these and other similar grounds, Lord Salisbury is inclined to give the preference to Railway as a means of communication; and he believes that "the financial future of India depends upon the due development of her railways."

Nor do the administrative capacities of our rulers appear in an advantageous light in the matter of railways. Lord Salisbury makes the following remarks upon this point. "There is a popular notion that railways in India have not paid at all, or paid exceedingly badly, and as a financial fact, there is no doubt that we have to pay a guaranteed interest of some £1,500,000 or £1,700,000 every year to make up the deficiency. I believe that result is in a great measure due to the mistakes which attended the original construction of the railways. It was a new matter; many blunders were made, and, though many men gave all their earnestness and all their ability to the task, still it was not to be hoped that they should escape from every kind of error; and to shew how much the comparative failure of railways, is due to accidental causes, I will mention just one fact which I had brought out by calculations made the other day. The money for all these railways in India was raised by a guaranteed interest at 5 per cent. I inquired what the difference would have been if instead of raising the money by guaranteed interest, the Indian Government had raised the money by borrowing from time to time, as its credit stood at the time, in the open market. I found that we should have saved the payment of £600,000 a year by simply altering the form of our financial action. If instead of adopting the system of guarantees, we had adopted the more orderly system of borrowing money as we wanted it, we should have saved that enormous sum. At the present rate of interest that represents a capital of £15,000,000, and my impression is that fifteen millions would go very far to supply all the railways which India now wants. At all events it would supply a very large number of them."

If irrigation is condemned on the ground of financial failure, it is difficult to see how with the yearly payment of £6,00,000 from the Indian exchequer, railways could be recommended on grounds of financial expediency. Railway and irrigation are both conspicuous instances of financial failures. But what possibly more than anything else has induced Lord Salisbury to give the preference to railways as the means of communication, is the security they afford to the English rule in the East. And the railways have for the most part been constructed with a view to strategic advantages rather than to the commercial development of the country.

Be that as it may in the midst of these administrative failures which unhappily tell so much upon the Indian Exchequer, it is pleasing to hear Lord Salisbury's testimony to the zeal manifested by the Native Princes in constructing railways in their dominions. Lord Salisbury says: "There is one hopeful sign with respect to railways and that is the confidence in them is not confined to ourselves, as the Native Princes have taken them up with considerable earnestness." Lord Salisbury holds out a promise that the import duty on cotton goods and yarns would be abolished, though it would take time to have this effected. In his concluding remarks Lord Salisbury "looks for a time when the ancient and secular torpor of the East shall be awakened by a communication of the energy of the North and he even aspires for a sense of community of nationality between the Imperial and the subject races." The *Times* very properly remarks, "We are very far away from the future thus anticipated, and if it is ever to be realized, it must be by the introduction of a spirit into the Government of India, which has not hitherto been traced in it. We must indeed aim at transforming the relations of subject and dominant races into an equal citizenship."

Parliament meets to-day. The Queen had at first intended to open Parliament in person, but she had to give up this idea on account of the continued illness of Prince Leopold, the youngest son of the Queen. Lord Hartington has succeeded Mr. Gladstone as leader of the Liberal Party. Possibly Mr. Forster would have been elected, had he not withdrawn his nomination. Lord Hartington is only 42 years of age, and was Chief Secretary for Ireland under the late Government.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

With reference to the 55 year rule the *Sahachar* observes, is it to be understood that even when disabled by infirmity those who have not attained the age of 55 will continue to enjoy office though they may not be in a condition to discharge its duties? And will able-bodied servicemen to be shelved and the state saddled with additional expenditure merely because they have attained the age of 55? The rule certainly requires modification and it ought to be made applicable to those persons only who are unfit for service.

The same journal referring to the honor shewn to the vernacular authors by Sir Richard Temple recommends that higher honors ought to be bestowed upon authors of superior merit who have taken the lead in the cause of vernacular literature. Pundit Eswar Chunder Vidyasagur is the father of the Bengalee language of our day, and India is indebted to him for many other blessings. The Government ought to reward him with the insignia of the Star of India.

A correspondent of the *SaptahikSamachar* noticing the rejection of two candidates one for admission into the Hindu School and the other into the Calcutta Sanskrit College and referring to the criticism of the *Pritidhuni* on this action of the educational authorities says, that the candidate for admission into the Hindoo School is the son of an England-returned Bengali who has by his conduct forfeited his claim to Hinduism and the rejection of his son is inevitable since the Hindoo School is for Hindoos only. The candidate for the Sanskrit College is the son of a progressive Brahma and the progressives by their intermarriage with different castes and their public disavowal of Hinduism on the occasion of the Brahma Marriage Act have ceased to be considered Hindus, and the Sanskrit College is not open to others than Hindoos.

The *Provat Sameer* discredits the popular cry that the Europeans have a general dislike for the natives and delight in their misfortunes. He cannot believe that the kinsmen of Wilberforce and Howard will reduce the natives to slavery or extirpate them from their native land. He cannot believe that a people who are anxious for the abolition of slavery from Zanzibar and restless for the establishment of good Government on the Gold Coast who shed tears for the unfortunate blacks of America, who have emancipated Greece and delivered Turkey from the grasp of Russia can possibly be the oppressor and tormentor of the humble inoffensive Bengali. And yet he cannot reconcile the character for moderation and justice which distinguishes genuine John Bull with the conduct of the Indigo planter the tea-planter, or the genus Anglo-Saxon rampant.

The *Goalparra Hitsadhinee* says that the Chief Commissioner of Assam in reply to the address which was presented to him on his visit to Goalparrah has intimated that he has recommended the opening of a daily steam communication between Gowhatty and Goalundo from the beginning of next month.

The *Education Gazette* is highly gratified at the notice taken by Sir Richard Temple in the last Bengal Administration Report of the Bengali authors and poets, and especially of Babu Bankim Chunder Chatterjea and the late Michael Mudhusudun Dutt and Rai Denobundhoo Mitra. Bengali authors, says the Editor, find neither fame nor fortune in the pursuit of their avocations and they will now have this royal notice to support and soothe them in their thankless task.

The *Probhat Sameer* cannot understand the spirit with which some of the Anglo-India editors carp at Native princes. Fault is found more or less with every feudatory chief and prince of India. There is no end to their joy—no limit to their hopes and aspirations when a Native prince is in trouble. Certainly it is the duty of journalists to bring princely abuses to the notice of Government and the public and when they give substantial facts they deserve the thanks of the community. But are not their statements too often rhetorical blandishments?

The *Bharat Sunskaruk* is dissatisfied at the apparent invidious distinction made by the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal by excluding a portion of the Bengali authors from his first levee. He thinks that the invitation ought to have included both the Calcutta and Mofussil authors. This condescension is calculated to cement an union between the governed and governors and banish from the minds of the former the idea that they are under foreign rule.

The *Probhath Sameer* deprecates the prevailing mania amongst the Native princes and zemindars of appointing European Managers to their estates. This predilection serves no useful purpose except giving a tacit consent to the selfish cry of the Europeans that the Natives are incompetent for the work. Where the estates are large and the income considerable he would suggest the appointment of Councils like that of the Raja of Burdwan, but the management of Native estates should in all cases be vested in Natives.

The *Burrahanuggur Samachar* calls the attention of Government to the causes which are tending to the decline of the domestic cattle of Bengal—especially cows and oxen, and suggests that some preventive measures might be adopted for putting or a stop to the practice of starving them in the pounds and beating them to death on the part of owners of corn fields before handing them over to the pound-keeper.

We are glad to notice the re-appearance of the *Halishahur Putrika* and the receipt of the *Bicharuk*, a new weekly. Both are diglots.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

		Rs.	As.	P.
	His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India	1	2	9
	Secretary Chuprah Public Library	13	4	0
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,,	Kalyprosonno Mozoomdar, Dhoorea	40	0	0
,,	Rhowan Lal, Shahabad	5	0	0
,,	Peary Mohun Banuerjea, Sersa	13	4	0
,,	Hurrish Chunder Roy, Khooldea	1	4	0
,,	Pran Chunder Packrasy, Sthat	10	0	0
,,	Gopal Chunder Sein, Burdwan	10	0	0
,,	Protap Chunder Borooa, Gouripore	50	0	0
Babu	Parbutty Churn Chatterji, Agra	10	0	0
,,	R. R. Mookerjee, Monghyr	3	2	0
,,	Sreenath Roy, Lucknow	13	4	0
,,	Hurry Churn Mozoomdar, Dinagepore	13	4	0
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Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*March* 10, 1875.

GENERAL.—*The 3rd March* 1875.—Mr. Villiers Thomas Taylor, Magistrate and Collector of Bhagulpore, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 8th April 1875.

Moulvi Willaut Hossain, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Bhubooah Division of the Shahabad District, is allowed leave for one month and eighteen days, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from such date as he may avail himself of it.

Baboo Medini Pershad Sing, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Bhubooah Division of the Shahabad District during the absence, on leave, of Moulvi Willaut Hossain, or until further orders.

The 4th March 1875.—Mr. William Henry Verner, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector 24. Pergunnahs, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21 Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 25th March 1875.

The following Acting Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collectors are confirmed in the Sixth Grade of the Subordinate Executive Service:—

Moulvi Mohamed Abdul Kalir, Acting Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cuttack, *vice* Baboo Heralall Mookerjea, deceased.

Baboo Nil Chunder Chuckerbutty, Acting Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagepore, *vice* Mr. H. Billon, deceased.

Baboo Gouri Sunker Biswas, Acting Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Sarun, *vice* Baboo Puran Chunder Neogy, deceased.

Mr. George Baptist, Acting Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Patna, *vice* Baboo Lucki Kant Roy, retired.

Baboo Umakant Das, Acting Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, with effect from the date on which Moulvi Zainuddin Hossein retires.

Baboo Mohanund Goopta, B.A., Acting Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, with effect from the date on which Baboo Dwarka Nath Day retires.

Mohes Chunder Sen, Acting Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Fureedpore, with effect from the date on which Mr. W. S. R. Davies retires.

The following gentlemen are appointed to act until further orders as Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors of the Sixth Grade, and are posted to the Sudder Stations of the districts mentioned against their repective names:—

Mr. C. N. Banerjea, Shahabad.

"T. J. Mendes, Nuddea.

Baboo Mohendro Nath Bhuttacherjea, M.A., Dinagepore.

Mr. Edward Maxwell Reily, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tipperah, is transferred to Mymensingh.

Mr. Alonzo Money, C.B., Member of the Board of Revenue, is allowed subsidiary leave for fifteen days, with effect from such date as he may avail himself of it, to enable him to proceed on furlough.

During the absence of Mr. Money on furlough, the Honble Henry Lucius Dampier will, with the approval of the Government of India, act as a Member of the Board of Revenue.

The 8th March 1875.—The following appointments are made with effect from the 17th March 1875, the date on which Mr. C. E. Lance retires from the Civil Service:—

Mr. Ross Lewis Mangles, District and Sessions Judge of the 2nd grade, is appointed to be a District and Sessions Judge of the First Grade.

Mr. John Peter Grant, C.S., is confirmed in the Second Grade of District and Sessions Judges.

Mr. James Cruickshank Geddes Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade, is appointed to be Judge of the Small Cause Courts at Kishnaghur, Ranaghat, and Meherpore, and of the Principal Courts of Small Causes in Nuddea and Jessore.

Advertisements.

Notice.

CALCUTTA SUBURBAN MUNICIPALITY.

UNDER SECTION XXX, ACT III OF 1864, (B.C.)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Valuations and Measurements of the Southern Division of the Suburbs of Calcutta, noted in the Margin,* have been revised under Section XXXII of Act III (B.C.) of 1864, and the books containing the said Valuations and Rates assessed can be inspected on any day (Sundays and Holidays excepted) at the Office of the Municipal Commissioners at Alipore, between the hours of 11 A.M. and 4 P.M., free of charge,

* Bounded on the North by River Hooghly, Tolly's Nullah and Lower Circular Road; on the East by Russa Road; on the South and West by the general limits of the Suburbs.

The Commissioners will on the 29th, 30th and 31st days of March next, at noon, proceed to revise the said Valuations and Assessments, and to hear all Appeals connected therewith, but no Appeal shall be

heard unless presented on or before the 25th of the said month, accompanied by a previous Quarter's bill.

R. C. STERNDALE,
Vice-Chairman.

Office of the Municipal Commissioners, for the Suburbs of Calcutta; Alipore, the 2nd March 1875. (74)

NOTICE.

CALCUTTA SUBURBAN MUNICIPALITY.

UNDER SECTION XXX, ACT III OF 1864, (*B. C.*)

NOTICE is hereby given that the Valuations and Measurements of the Centre Division of the Suburbs of Calcutta, noted in the margin,* have been revised under Section XXXII of Act III (B C) of 1864, and the books containing the said Valuations and Rates assessed can be inspected on any day (Sundays and Holidays excepted) at the office of the Municipal Commissioners at Alipore, between the hours of 11 A. M. and 4 P. M., free of charge.

* Bounded on the North by the Lower Circular Road and Dhappa Tramway; on the East by the general limits of the Suburbs; on the South by Kankalia and Mulnahatty Roads, and on the West by Russapuglah Road.

The Commissioners will on the 29th, 30th and 31st days of March next, at noon, proceed to revise the said Valuations and Assessments, and to hear all Appeals connected therewith, but no Appeal shall be heard unless presented on or before the 25th of the said month, accompanied by a previous Quarter's bill.

R. C. STERNDALE,
Vice-Chairman.

Office of the Municipal Commissioners, for the Suburbs of Calcutta; Alipore, the 2nd March 1865. (75)

NOTICE.

CALCUTTA SUBURBAN MUNICIPALITY.

UNDER SECTION XXX, ACT III OF 1864 *(B. C.)*

NOTICE is hereby given that the Valuations and Measurements of the Northern Division of the Suburbs of Calcutta, noted in the margin,* have been revised under Section XXXII of Act III (B C.) of 1864, and the books containing the said Valuations and Rates assessed can be inspected on any day (Sundays and Holidays excepted) at the Office of the Municipal Commissioners at Alipore, between the hours of 11 A. M. and 4 P. M., free of charge.

* Bounded on the North by the general limits of the Suburbs; on the East by the line of the Eastern Bengal Railway and the new Canal; on the South by the Dhappa Tramway and Marhattah Ditch, and on the West by the River Hooghly and Upper Circular Road.

The Commissioners will on the 29th, 30th and 31st days of March next, at noon, proceed to revise the said Valuations and Assessments, and to hear all Appeals connected therewith, but no Appeal shall be heard unless presented on or before the 25th of the said month, accompanied by a previous Quarter's bill.

R C. STERNDALE.
Vice-Chairman.

Office of the Municipal Commissioners, for the Suburbs of Calcutta; Alipore, the 2nd March 1275. (76)

A Special General Meeting of the Justices of the Peace for the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall, on Thursday, the 18*th March* 1875 *at* 11 *O'Clock* A.M.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1. Report of the Special Committee for improvement of Villages within the Town.

The Chairman to submit plans of certain *bustees* in Town, with a report on the same from Engineer and Health Officer, stating sanitary reforms absolutely necessary, and to propose—

"That the Chairman be instructed to carry out the reforms recommended by the Engineer and Health Officer, as far as the existing law admits of."

2. Report of the Jute Committee, on applications for Licenses for—

12, Karformah's Lane.

98-2, Sobha Bazar Street (for additional godowns.)

3. Proceedings of Committee of Justices for Finance, at a meeting held on 8th March, to be confirmed.

4. The Chairman to suggest the expediency of at once ordering from England additional Stone-ware drain pipes to the value of one lac of rupees for completion of the entire drainage of the Town, estimates for which have been prepared, and will shortly be submitted.

ROBERT TURNBULL.
Secretary to the Justices.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS.

Mr. J. Wilson to move—

1. That all rates be levied on the basis of the old assessments until the completion of the whole of the new valuations.

2. That the valuations and measurements for the revision of assesments of houses, buildings, lands, &c., for the three years, commencing with the first quarter of 1875, having given cause for numerous appeals, the Assessor for the Town is directed to regulate his valuations by Section LXVI. of Act. VI. of 1863, Section XXVI. of Act VI. of 1866 and other cognate Sections of the several Municipal Acts.

3. That the mode at present and heretofore adopted for convening a Board of not less than three Justices of the Peace under Section XXVII. of Act VI. of 1866, for the hearing of appeals is unsatisfactory, inasmuch as it is not calculated to secure the attendance of even three Justices who are not "officers" of the Justices. It is, therefore, ordered by the Justices, that due notice shall be given to the Justices of the time and place when appeals will be heard, so as to secure, if possible, the attendance of a Board greater than a quorum of three Justices for the "hearing of appeals."

4. That the Chairman be directed to obtain the opinion of the Advocate General as to manner in which evidence is to be received by the Board of Justices, whether on oath, solemn declaration, or otherwise.

5. That a statement be printed, shewing a list of notices for revision of assessment, with columns for original assessment, revised, and result on appeal. (77)

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½ lb.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 lb.	8-8	11	...	15	27	21-8	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 lbs.	...	...	...	12	14	17	20	24	27	...	11	15	18	27	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 oz. Chs. & Pans	10	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
½ lb.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 lb.	10-8	14	13	17	30	...	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
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2	8	„ „ (Three Star)	28	„
		Jamaica Rum		
1	8	Swaine Boord's ...	17	0
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		Ports		
2	4	J. & C. White's (old delicate)	25	
1	6	Ditto in pints ...	15	0
2	0	Burgundy's (Invalid Port) ...	23	0
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2	0	Sparkling Hock ...	23	0
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